

Summary of disability within Cheltenham

Introduction

The new Disability Discrimination Act was enacted on 8th April 2005 and places a Disability Equality Duty on the public sector to increase equality and fairness for disabled people. This is a positive duty which builds in disability equality at the beginning of the process, rather than make adjustments at the end. It will bring about a shift from a legal framework which relies on individual disabled people complaining about discrimination to one in which the public sector becomes a proactive agent of change.

To ensure that the council is fulfilling its obligations under the new duty, it has taken the decision to carry out a scrutiny review to promote disability equality with the goal of closing the gaps in disabled and non-disabled people's experiences of council services.

One of the workstreams for the review is to carry out an assessment of demographic data to determine the prevalence of disability in Cheltenham which will then provide the benchmark for assessing our staff structure and service provision. This summary paper will inform the review by highlighting the headline disability statistics for Cheltenham.

Analysis

For the purpose of this paper, disability in Cheltenham has been measured using the following categories:

- Locomotion
- Reaching
- Dexterity
- Seeing Hearing
- Personal Care
- Continence
- Communication
- Behaviour
- Intellectual Functioning
- Mental Illness
- Psychosis
- Stress
- Neurosis

These categories have then been sorted into severe, significant or mild need disabilities. It is by these terms that the headline results will be analysed.

According to Jean Martin & Howard Meltzer, authors of "The Prevalence of Disability among Adults" (1988), people with "severe" disabilities are likely to be bed or chair - bound, or equivalent; people with "significant" disabilities are those that social services are most likely to be involved with, and they will have disabilities which significantly affect their ability to live independently; and people with "mild" disabilities will mostly be able to cope on their own with a number of minor adaptations to their environment or lifestyle.

The figures provided in this review were supplied by the Multi Agency Information Database Network (MAIDeN).

Headline results

The following headline results are estimated disability projections for Cheltenham for 2004, 2005 and 2006 based on figures from the mid-2003 ONS data.

- In 2004 **25.63%** (28,130) of Cheltenham's residents had a **mild, significant or severe disability need**. It has been projected that this proportion will increase fractionally in **2005** to **25.67%**. By **2006**, the projected trend is that this proportion will increase further to **25.69%**. This small percentage increase is due to the total population of the town decreasing. Therefore, even though the proportion of people with disability needs will increase, the actual number is expected to decrease by approximately 30 people over the period of 2004 to 2006 (28,130 to 28,103).
- **14%** of people with disabilities are of **working age**. Of these, 4% were classed as having a severe need, 32% were classed as having a significant need, and 64% were classed as having a mild need. Census results showed that in 2001 approximately only 40% of disabled people in Gloucestershire that are of working age were economically active.
- In 2004, **79.1%** (14,967) of **pensioners** (65+) in the borough have a disability reflecting the slightly older structure of the town. By 2006 this proportion will increase slightly to 79.3% (14,994).
- In 2004, **children** represented **15%** (2,972) of all people with disabilities. In 2006, this proportion will be approximately the same, although the actual number is expected to decrease to 2,851.
- **Mental illness** accounts for the highest proportion of disabilities in Cheltenham with **12.15%** (13,339) people affected in 2004, 12.21% (13,382) in 2005 and 12.25% (13,411) in 2006.

Benefits data

There are two important benefits associated with health that are paid to people who need help with personal care. They are the Disability Living Allowance and the Attendance Allowance.

Disability Living Allowance

The Disability Living Allowance is paid to people under 65, who are disabled, and need help with personal care and/or getting around.

- **11.3%** (3,205) of disabled people, within Cheltenham claimed **Disability Living Allowance** in August 2004. This equates to 2.9% of the total population of the town. This is an increase of 7.5% on August 2003 figures.
 - Hesters Way ward has the highest number of claimants with 310 (0.28% of the population), closely followed by Oakley with 300 (0.27% of the population).
 - Battledown ward has the lowest number of claimants with 70 (0.06% of the population).

Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is paid to people aged 65 or over who are disabled, either physically or mentally, and who need supervision or assistance with personal care over a prolonged period of time.

- **9.4%** (2,600) of disabled people within Cheltenham claimed **Attendance Allowance** in August 2004. This equates to 2.3% of the total population of the town. This is up 7.4% on August 2003 figures.
 - Prestbury ward has the highest number of claimants with 205 (0.18% of the population); this corresponds to the fact that Prestbury also has the highest population of over 65 year olds.
 - Swindon Village Ward has the lowest number of claimants with 75 and is also one of the wards with the lowest proportion of over 65 year olds.

Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance

Incapacity Benefit is for people of working age who cannot work because of illness or disability and are not entitled to Statutory Sick Pay, or Statutory Sick Pay has run out.

To get Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), you had to be aged 16 or over and under 65, unable to work for at least 28 weeks and unable to get Incapacity Benefit.

In August **2004**, **12.7%** (3,605) of disabled people in Cheltenham claimed Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disability Allowance.

- **10.8%** (3,045) of disabled within Cheltenham claimed **Incapacity Benefit** in August 2004. This equates to 2.8% of the total population of the town. This is an increase of 9.4% on August 2003 figures.
- **1.9%** (560) of disabled people within Cheltenham claimed **Severe Disablement Allowance** in August 2004. This equates to 0.5% of the total population of the town. There has not been an increase of claimants for Severe Disablement Allowance since August 2003.
 - Hesters Way, Oakley and St Mark's wards have the equal highest number of claimants with 355 (0.3% of the population).
 - Battledown ward has the lowest number of claimants with 65 (0.05% of the population).

Pension Credit

Pension Credit is an entitlement for people aged 60 or over living in Great Britain.

- In August 2004, Oakley Ward had the highest number of claimants at 345. This equates to a 26.8% claim rate for people aged 60+ in this ward.

Indices of Deprivation 2004 – Mental Health Indicator.

The IoD Mental Health Indicator refers to the measure of adults affected with mood or anxiety disorders.

The IoD indicator reports on Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). There are usually three or four LSOAs within a ward and on average there are approximately 1500 people living within an LSOA.

In total there are 75 LSOAs in Cheltenham, 367 county-wide and 32,482 nationally.

In 2004, Hesters Way 1 (which covers Edward Wilson, Scott, Hobart and Tasmania Houses) was the LSOA ranked as having the highest percentage of people affected with mood and anxiety disorders in the county. It was also ranked 845th nationally.

In total, six LSOAs in Cheltenham fell into the top 10% of people affected with mood and anxiety disorders nationally. These being:

- Hesters Way 1 - Princess Elizabeth Way
- St Marks 1 - Monkscroft
- All Saints 3 - Fairview
- St Paul's 2 - Manser Street / Hudson Street / Granville Street area
- St Peter's 3 – The Moors, PE Way including New Zealand and South Africa Houses and Arle
- Springbank 2 – Springbank and Welch Road

20 SOAs in Cheltenham fell into the top 10% county-wide.

Health Status

The 2001 Census asked people to describe their health, over the preceding 12 months as 'good', 'fairly good' or 'not good'. People were also asked if they had any limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability that restricted their daily activities or the work they could do.

In total, **71.6%** of Cheltenham residents claimed that their general health was '**good**'. **21.2%** claimed that their health was '**fairly good**', and **7.2%** claimed that their health was '**not good**'.

In terms of age, people of working age made up the largest share of people with 'poor health' population (54.8%), followed by people aged 65+ (42.6%). Children under 16 accounted for 2.6%.

Oakley ward had the highest proportion of residents who classed their health as 'not good' with 10.7% (627).

College ward had the highest proportion of residents who classed their health as 'good' with 79.6% (4,257).

Overall, people in Cheltenham 71.2% of people classed themselves as being in 'good' health and 7.4% in 'not good' health.

Limiting long-term illnesses

The 2001 census revealed that 14.4% (15,788) of Cheltenham Residents have a limiting long term illness. This is lower than the average for Gloucestershire which has 15.4% of the population with a LLT illness, and the South-West which has 18.1% of people with a LLT illness.

Oakley Ward has the highest proportion of residents with a LLT illness at 20% (1,173), closely followed by St Mark's and Hesters Way with 19% (1,137 and 1,060 respectively).

College Ward has the lowest number of resident with a LLT illness at just 12% (633).

The economic consequence of LLTI was clear; in Gloucestershire as a whole, only 33% of people of working age with LLTI were economically active.

Social services referrals

In Cheltenham in 2004 there were 6,581 Social Services referrals, of these people 3,994 were over the age of 75, and 523 were under the age of 18.

Of the Wards in Cheltenham, Landsdown had the highest number of referrals at 477, with Benhall and the Reddings having the lowest at 214 each.

Conclusions

Overall it can be concluded from the data that the actual number of disabled people in the borough is decreasing. However, the mid-2003 ONS population estimates suggest that the overall population of the town will also slightly decrease. Thus leading to the proportion (percentage) of disabled people in the borough slightly increasing.

There is an increase each year in the amount of claimants for benefits relating to disability and there are clear ward variations in the proportion of disabled people.

Through the analysis of the disability data the report identifies evidence that highlight the challenges that Cheltenham Borough Council has to meet in order to provide a sustained high quality of health and social care to the local people in the county.

The report also identifies the wide range of disabilities that residents across the Borough are affected by, and that a variety of different approaches will need to be taken in order to meet their needs. In the wider community, it is important that services and employment opportunities are continually improved for disabled people.

The work to assess the prevalence of disability in Cheltenham will inform the production of the council's three year Disability Equality Scheme which will be approved by December 2006.

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