



United Kingdom Fact Sheet on Social Care & Support Services Sector for Persons with Disabilities

Part of a series of Country Fact Sheets available on the EASPD website

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SUBSECTORS OF SOCIAL CARE & SUPPORT SERVICES AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

Early Childhood Intervention

All families should have access to early intervention support. In England this is guided by the Healthy Child Programme (0-19 years) introduced by the Department of Health (via health visitors) and the Department for Education (via family support workers). Health and well-being needs are identified and then signposted to ensure that families have access to a timely assessment and diagnosis within multidisciplinary teams, consisting of the community Paediatrician, Speech and Language Therapists, Child Adolescent and Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Children's Services and Specialist Community Learning Disability Teams.

Every Local Authority is responsible for carrying out an assessment for children in need. This is called a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and is completed by the Family Support Worker.

The Family Support Worker team then determines the services necessary for each family in a care plan, which is reviewed regularly. Services available for children with disabilities and their families consist of:

- advice and information;
- personal assistance at home;
- help with Childcare costs (working tax credit, free childcare scheme from 2018);
- direct payments.

Central Government pays general grants to Local Authorities. Every Local Authority in the UK will offer similar services by law such as education services and SEN (special educational needs) support. However there may be considerable differences in the type of services available within each of the four UK countries and in each Local Authority. Some may be publicly funded, other services may be provided by profit and non-profit organisations subcontracted or commissioned by the Local Authority, whilst other services may be provided by NGOs, Charities or private-based. Families may also after an assessment process have the option of receiving Direct Payments that they can use to pay for services such as Short Breaks or Childcare Costs.

Education Support

The Equality Act 2010 stipulates that it is against the law for educational establishments to discriminate against children with disabilities.

Educational establishments within each Local Authority in England receive policy direction and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). Every Local Authority is therefore committed to provide quality education for children and young people with SEND (special educational needs and disability) . Education provision within the UK consists of:

- mainstream schools - these are expected to be inclusive and are required by law in the four jurisdictions to make reasonable adjustments to ensure each child's needs are met. This may include additional support provided by a Teacher's Assistant (TA) or Learning Support Assistant (LSA), a Specialist Teacher and/ or Speech and Language Therapist. If children have additional needs, other assessments are carried out to access further additional support such as psychological therapies, play and creative arts therapy or music therapy;
- schools with a Resource Provision - these schools specialise in individual learning packages for pupils with SEND, but are inclusive within a mainstream setting;
- special Provision (known as Special Schools)¹ - these schools are for children with SEND i.e. profound learning difficulties, SEMH (social, emotional and mental health), physical disabilities and complex needs;
- residential Special Schools for children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities. These focus on education and provide teaching on-site.

¹There are 1,037 state-funded and non-maintained special schools in England.



Schools receive funding to assist them in providing additional support for children with SEN and disabilities (called SEN in England, called additional support needs in Scotland and additional learning needs in Wales).

From 1 September 2014, maintained nurseries, schools and academies in England have a duty to produce and publish a SEN information report which describes in detail how the SEN policy is implemented.

Employment Support

It is against the law for employers to discriminate against persons with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010. Local Job Centres (also called Job and Benefit Offices in some areas within Northern Ireland) offer employment support to persons with disability (age 16+) to find a job or gain new skills. Services within the U.K. are similar in all four countries though there are some variations. The services offered in England, Scotland and Wales include:

- Referral to a work psychologist if required.
- Employment assessment.
- Meeting a Work Coach to give information about programmes and grants to help get persons with disabilities get back into work. This is done through two programmes:
 - specialist employability support: a 12 month intensive support and training programme to help persons with disabilities get ready for employment or become self-employed;
 - access to work (only available in England, Scotland and Wales): This includes covering costs towards (1) a support worker; (2) the cost of special equipment; (3) the cost of travelling to work.

In Northern Ireland the services offered are similar to those available in the rest of the U.K. including a specialist adviser to guide persons with disability in their local authority. These services are funded by the Department for Communities (NI). There are also work schemes and programmes available as listed below.

- Residential training for adults with disabilities at Parkanaur College (age 18+) for persons with intellectual, physical and sensory disabilities to gain NVQ3 qualifications (National Vocational Qualification) in different sectors such as carpentry or administration amongst others.
- Steps 2 Success: an employment programme to build skills, find and keep a job.
- Workable (NI): long-term support to find and keep work e.g. providing a job coach or providing disability awareness training to an employer.
- Access to work (NI). This programme provides:
 - help with travel costs to get to and from work;
 - contributions to additional costs that may arise;
 - provision of special equipment;
 - adaptations to premises and equipment in the workplace;
 - support if needed;
 - communication support for deaf people.

Other NGOs such as SCOPE also provide employment support for persons with disabilities. These are often self-funded or funded by grants from the government.

Day Care

Every Local Authority in the UK will offer some form of day care or support, subject to an assessment process. This falls into three broad types.

- Day care centres designed for persons with learning disabilities to maintain and develop everyday life skills such as time management, money management, digital skills training, numeracy and literacy, as well as offering activities such as arts and crafts and sports and exercise classes.
- Day care centres which use systems of work skill assessment and offer courses in specific work skills and formal work preparation leading to voluntary work placements.
- Day care services with specific employment placement teams, providing support into paid work.



Other national non-governmental non-profit organisations within different Local Authority areas may offer similar services. These organisations would include Mencap and Scope.

Living Support

Local Authorities in England have a legal duty under the Care Act 2014 to carry out a Needs Assessment to determine a person's eligibility for care and support. After an assessment is carried out, a Care and Support Plan and a Personal Budget are provided along with free information and advice on how to get the required support to improve a disabled person's quality of life and live independently. Local Authorities, Charity organisations or commercial companies can provide supported living services, listed below:

- personal care (washing, preparing food and/ or eating it);
- supportive equipment such as grab rails and raised toilet seats, hoist or walking frame;
- home adaptations such as stair lifts, bathroom extensions or ramps. Local Authorities charge for these however persons with disabilities may apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant for equipment and home adaptations;
- purchase, maintenance and repair of disability related equipment, this may include computer costs where necessitated by the disability;
- basic cleaning, garden maintenance or other domestic help, if needed because of disability and not met by social services;
- transport needed because of the disability;
- day and night support staff within the home of the person with disability.

Similar responsibilities are assigned to local authorities or Health and Social Care Boards (in Northern Ireland) by social care legislation in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Long-Term Institutional Care and Respite Care

Residential homes for persons with disabilities are decreasing in England² as more persons prefer supported living within their own homes yet there are hundreds of residential homes for persons (children and adults) with physical and sensory impairments, people with learning disabilities and brain acquired injuries. Residential home services are offered by for profit and by non-profit organisations, funded by Local Authorities and/or by the individual and/or their family. Local Authority help with the cost of residential care is means-tested and a person's family may be required to contribute.

Short breaks services include respite services – these may take place in the family home, day or trips away from home, overnight stays, longer periods away from home and breaks for the family. Local Authorities in England and Wales have a legal duty to provide short breaks services for families with children with disabilities.

The Local Authority, NHS commissioners or NGOs fund adult respite services. These are for adults (18+) with learning disabilities and complex needs which may include challenging behaviour or profound and multiple disabilities.

Leisure and Social-Life Support

The Equality Law 2010 stipulates that all service providers should make 'reasonable adjustments' to their buildings and services so that disabled people (children and adults) can use them. These include religious places, community centres, libraries, toy libraries, leisure centres (for sports and use of swimming pool) as well as adventure playgrounds including the use of special equipment.

Clubs and activities

NGOs often provide programmes of support and clubs for persons with physical disabilities or learning difficulties (including autism) with the aim of building and maintaining friendships and relationships. This is in response to research that indicates that persons with disability are more likely to be isolated. Types of leisure and support services include:

²22% of persons with learning disabilities in the U.K. live in a registered care home.



- befriending services;
- supported activities on a one-to-one basis or in groups;
- sport clubs may provide access to sporting activities and may receive targeted grants to do this from governmental and/or NGO national agencies i.e. Sport England, Sports Council for Wales;
- cinema access for persons with physical disabilities and autism friendly shows;
- access to swimming pools in leisure centres and the local library.

Sexual support

There are a number of NGOs which provide information on relationships and sexual support. These are free and come in the form of leaflets or booklets available online. Some disabled persons organisations and for profit organisations run dating services for persons with disabilities in some localities.

Transportation

Persons with disabilities can make use of a Free Bus Pass and a Disabled Persons Railcard to buy discounted train tickets. Some local authorities also provide Community Transport, a free, pre-booked on-demand service as well as a number of Shopmobility services for persons with disabilities.

FUTURE TRENDS

Employment

The U.K. government has launched new plans to get more disabled people into work over the next ten years by 2028.

CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS

Family Services Manager, Children's Centre, February 2018

SENCo, Community Primary School, February 2018



DATA SOURCES

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