



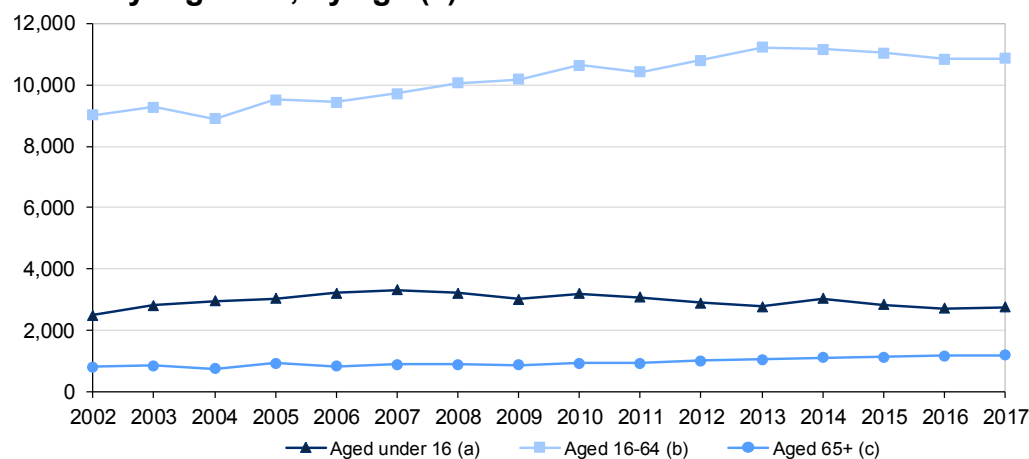
## Local authority registers of people with disabilities, Wales, 31 March 2017

29 November 2017  
SFR 176/2017

This annual National Statistics first release summarises information on people with disabilities registered with local authorities in Wales.

This data was collected for the final time at 31 March 2017 and this release is the last in this series of statistical outputs. Following commencement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, there are new requirements for April 2017 onwards for collecting data on the activities of social services in relation to disabled people with a care and support plan (for further information see the [key quality](#) section).

**Chart 1: Number of people with learning disabilities on local authority registers, by age (a)**



(a) See footnotes in [Table 2](#)

Source: SSDA901

### Key results

#### The reported number of people on registers with learning disabilities at 31 March 2017:

- There were 14,787 people in total, of whom 12,652 (86 per cent) were living in community placements and 2,135 (14 per cent) were in residential establishments ([Table 1](#)).

#### The reported number of people on registers with physical or sensory disabilities at 31 March 2017 :

- There were 75,185 people in total, of whom 44,363 (59 per cent) were registered as having a physical disability only ([Table 6](#)).

### About this release

The release presents key results in Wales for registers at 31 March 2017. All statistics in this release can be regarded as final figures, not subject to further revision or update.

Further information and full details for individual local authorities is published on [StatsWales](#). Terms which have a special meaning in the provision of social services are further explained in the [Glossary](#).

### In this release

<a href="#">Registers of people with learning disabilities</a>	3
<a href="#">Registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities</a>	5
<a href="#">Key quality information</a>	9

## Table of contents

Section 1: Registers of people with learning disabilities .....	3
Section 2: Registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities .....	5
Glossary .....	7
Notes .....	7
Key Quality Information .....	9
Annex: A List of Tables and Data Items Provided in StatsWales .....	14

## List of tables and charts

Chart 1: Number of people with learning disabilities on local authority registers, by age .....	1
Table 1: Number of people on local authority registers by type of accommodation and age, at 31 March 2017 .....	3
Table 2: Number of people on local authority registers by age, at 31 March .....	4
Table 3: Number of severely sight impaired people on local authority registers, at 31 March 2017 ..	5
Table 4: Number of sight impaired people on local authority registers, at 31 March 2017 .....	5
Table 5: Number of people with hearing impairment or only a physical disability on local authority registers, at 31 March 2017 .....	5
Table 6: Number of people with physical or sensory disabilities on local authority registers, at 31 March <sup>(a)</sup> .....	6

## Section 1: Registers of people with learning disabilities

**Table 1: Number of people on local authority registers by type of accommodation and age, at 31 March 2017**

	Aged under 16	Aged 16-64	Aged 65+	Total
<b>Placements in community settings</b>	<b>2,708</b>	<b>9,072</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>12,652</b>
Own home	.	1,563	310	1,873
Living with parents or family	2,540	5,278	159	7,977
Foster home	168	91	7	266
Lodgings/supported living	0	2,140	396	2,536
<b>Placements in residential establishments</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>2,135</b>
Health service accommodation	0	99	17	116
Local authority care homes	6	51	32	89
Private or voluntary care homes	27	1,083	234	1,344
Other accommodation	2	556	28	586
<b>All accommodation</b>	<b>2,743</b>	<b>10,861</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>14,787</b>

.. The data item is not applicable.

Source: SSDA901

At 31 March 2017 there were 14,787 people registered with learning disabilities in Wales. 86 per cent were living in community placements and 14 per cent were in residential establishments. 54 per cent of all people on registers were living with parents or family and 17 per cent were in lodgings or supported living.

**Table 2: Number of people on local authority registers by age, at 31 March**

	Aged under 16 <sup>(a)</sup>	Aged 16-64 <sup>(b)</sup>	Aged 65+ <sup>(c)</sup>	Total <sup>(d)</sup>
2002	2,493	9,021	798	<b>12,312</b>
2003	2,805	9,284	841	<b>12,930</b>
2004	2,962	8,887	741	<b>13,156</b>
2005	3,039	9,524	926	<b>13,489</b>
2006	3,215	9,437	821	<b>13,473</b>
2007	3,318	9,724	891	<b>13,933</b>
2008	3,206	10,054	877	<b>14,137</b>
2009	3,022	10,184	862	<b>14,068</b>
2010	3,193	10,647	931	<b>14,771</b>
2011	3,068	10,421	934	<b>14,423</b>
2012	2,898	10,802	1,001	<b>14,701</b>
2013	2,769	11,214	1,046	<b>15,029</b>
2014	3,025	11,165	1,107	<b>15,297</b>
2015	2,842	11,039	1,129	<b>15,010</b>
2016	2,715	10,846	1,168	<b>14,729</b>
2017	2,743	10,861	1,183	<b>14,787</b>

Source: SSDA901

(a) 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 based on data submitted by 21 authorities. 2003 and 2004 based on data submitted by 20 authorities.

(b) 2004 and 2006 based on data submitted by 21 authorities.

(c) 2002, 2004 and 2006 based on data submitted by 21 authorities.

(d) For 2004 the total will not match the breakdown as 1 authority was unable to provide a full breakdown.

Of those registered with learning disabilities at 31 March 2017, 19 per cent were aged under 16, 73 per cent were aged between 16 and 64, and 8 per cent were aged 65 and over. The proportions have remained fairly stable since 2002 for each age group.

## Section 2: Registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities

The registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities include all persons registered under [Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948](#). However, registration is voluntary and figures may therefore be an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities.

At 31 March 2017, 16,994 people were registered with a visual impairment, of whom just under half (49.5 per cent) were registered as severely sight impaired and just over half (50.5 per cent) as sight impaired.

**Table 3: Number of severely sight impaired people on local authority registers, at 31 March 2017**

	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Severely sight impaired with hearing impairment	16	175	848	1,039
Severely sight impaired without hearing	162	1,993	5,219	7,374
<b>Total severely sight impaired</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>6,067</b>	<b>8,413</b>

Source: SSDA900

At 31 March 2017, 8,413 people were registered as severely sight impaired. 12 per cent of these people also had a hearing impairment. Almost three-quarters (72 per cent) of people on the register with severe sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

**Table 4: Number of sight impaired people on local authority registers, at 31 March 2017**

	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Sight impaired with hearing impairment	6	73	765	844
Sight impaired without hearing impairment	230	2,046	5,461	7,737
<b>Total sight impaired</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>6,226</b>	<b>8,581</b>

Source: SSDA900

10 per cent of people with sight impairment also had a hearing impairment. Nearly three-quarters (73 per cent) of people on the register with sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

People who have sight impairment in addition to hearing impairment are excluded from Table 5 below, but are included in Tables 3 and 4. See the [Glossary](#) for information on the classifications.

**Table 5: Number of people with hearing impairment or only a physical disability on local authority registers, at 31 March 2017**

	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Deaf with speech	34	750	860	1,644
Deaf without speech	32	444	234	710
Hard of hearing	79	1,890	9,505	11,474
<b>Total with hearing impairment</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>10,599</b>	<b>13,828</b>
<b>Physical disability only<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>581</b>	<b>10,851</b>	<b>32,931</b>	<b>44,363</b>

(a) Based on data provided by 21 local authorities. Blaenau Gwent were unable to provide the data.

Source: SSDA900

At 31 March 2017, there were 13,828 people registered with hearing impairment only, of whom 83 per cent were hard of hearing.

**Table 6: Number of people with physical or sensory disabilities on local authority registers, at 31 March (a)**

	Severely sight impaired <sup>(b)</sup>	Sight impaired <sup>(b)</sup>	Hearing impairment <sup>(c)</sup>	Physical disability only <sup>(d)</sup>	<b>Total <sup>(e)</sup></b>
2002	9,321	10,294	902	.	.
2003	9,356	10,278	939	.	.
2004	9,643	10,565	970	.	.
2005	9,905	10,751	978	.	.
2006	9,677	10,287	946	.	.
2007	8,657	8,890	12,211	50,680	<b>80,438</b>
2008	8,889	8,925	12,219	51,790	<b>81,823</b>
2009	8,723	9,352	12,742	50,217	<b>81,034</b>
2010	8,003	8,078	12,278	46,469	<b>74,828</b>
2011	7,904	8,336	12,582	45,401	<b>74,223</b>
2012	7,972	8,524	12,600	44,695	<b>73,791</b>
2013	7,978	8,513	13,056	47,771	<b>77,318</b>
2014	8,263	8,676	13,217	47,150	<b>77,306</b>
2015	7,800	8,105	13,640	47,335	<b>76,880</b>
2016	7,790	8,248	13,480	46,235	<b>75,753</b>
2017	8,413	8,581	13,828	44,363	<b>75,185</b>

(a) People with multiple disabilities are counted only once from 2007 onwards.

Source: SSDA900

(b) 2006, 2010, 2011 and 2012 based on data provided by 21 authorities, 2015 based on data provided by 20 authorities.

(c) 2003, 2006, 2010, 2011 and 2012 based on data provided by 21 authorities.

(d) 2007, 2005 and 2017 based on data provided by 21 authorities. 2008 based on data provided by 20 authorities. 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 based on data provided by 19 authorities.

(e) 2010, 2011 and 2012 based on data provided by 21 authorities.

'.' The data item is not applicable.

At 31 March 2017, there were 75,185 people reported on local authority registers with physical or sensory disabilities, a decrease of 568 people when compared to the previous year.

## Glossary

**Deaf:** People who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing. This is a definition based on hearing ability and not on choice of language. It includes both Deaf people who are Culturally Deaf, British Sign Language Users and those with other methods of communication.

**Residential establishment:** A communal establishment where an inclusive package of care including accommodation, personal care and other services is provided, usually commissioned by the local authority.

**Supported living:** People who are accommodated in an individual's own home or in a shared house; support services such as the provision of personal care are provided separately, and not as part of an inclusive package of care.

## Notes

### Policy context and data collection

- The registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities include all persons registered under [Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948](#). However, registration is voluntary and figures may therefore be an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities. Registration of severe sight impairment is, however, a pre-condition for the receipt of certain financial benefits and the numbers of people in this category may therefore be more reliable than those for partial sight impairment or other disabilities. These factors alongside uncertainties about the regularity with which councils review and update their records, mean that the reliability of this information is difficult to determine and so it cannot be thought of as a definitive number of people with disabilities.
- A more detailed breakdown of people with visual and other disabilities has been collected from 2007 than in previous years in order to identify the numbers of people with multiple disabilities. Some of the decrease between 2006 and 2007 may be due to double counting in earlier years.
- People with sight impairment are registered by local authorities following certification of their sight impairment by a consultant ophthalmologist. [The Certificate of Vision Impairment \(Wales\)](#) formally certifies someone as partially sighted or as blind (now using the preferred terminology 'sight impaired' or 'severely sight impaired', respectively) so that the Local Authority can register him or her.
- Registration is voluntary and access to various, or to some, benefits and social services is not dependent on registration. If the person is not known to social services as someone with needs arising from their visual impairment, registration also acts as a referral for a social care assessment.

## Data collection

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act set out significant changes in policy, which in turn will have an effect on the current national social services data collections. In order to understand and develop requirements in relation to these changes, the Welsh Government set up the Social Services Technical Information Network in November 2014. The Network includes representation from the Welsh Local Government Association, Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Welsh Government.

The Network has reviewed all of the national social services data returns submitted by local authorities and requirements for data have been developed in line with the implementation of the Act. In relation to the main data sources for this release SSDA901 (Registers of people with learning disabilities) and SSDA900 (Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities), the Network agreed that 2016-17 would be the final year of collecting and reporting on this data. From April 2017, local authorities are required to collect the data detailed in the 'disabled people receiving care and support' return.

The data were supplied to the Data Collection team within the Welsh Government by the 22 local authorities in Wales on forms SSDA901 (Registers of people with learning disabilities) and SSDA900 (Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities). The forms apply an extensive series of validation checks to ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent.

Further information on quality and methods can be found in the [quality report](#).

## Symbols and rounding conventions

The following symbols may have been used in the tables:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half the final digit shown.
- . the data item is not applicable.
- .. the data item is not available.
- \* the data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication.

## Revisions

Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release. Where changes are not deemed to be significant, figures will be corrected if they appear in future releases. However minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the [StatsWales tables](#) prior to the next release.



## Key quality information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability.

### Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor adult and children's social services trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some of the key users may include:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Local authorities;
- The third sector (e.g. charities);
- The Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- The research community;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- The Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- The Scottish Government, Analytical Services Division
- The Department for Education in England.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- local authority comparisons and benchmarks;
- to inform the social services policy decision-making process in Wales;
- to inform the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales;
- to assist in research on adults and children receiving social services.

### Accuracy

Every year the data are collected from the same sources (the SSDA900 and SSDA901 data collection returns) and adhere to the national standards and guidance, thus ensuring coherence within and across organisations.

Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with local authorities between submissions to ensure coherence of the data received, and before tables are published. The figures in this release reflect the final position as at 31 March 2016.

## **Timeliness and punctuality**

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected data, for the financial year 2015-16, between May and July 2016. Data in this release refers to final 2016 data. This release was published in October 2016, meeting the planned date of publication.

## **Accessibility and clarity**

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

## **Comparability and coherence**

The registers of people with learning disabilities data may be an underestimate of the total number of people with learning disabilities as registration is voluntary. Local authorities submit numbers of all persons identified as having a learning disability currently known to the authority and included in a register of records for the purpose of planning or providing services.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act set out significant changes in policy, which in turn will have an effect on the current national social services data collections. In order to understand and develop requirements in relation to these changes, the Welsh Government set up the Social Services Technical Information Network in November 2014. The Network includes representation from the Welsh Local Government Association, Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Welsh Government.

The Network has reviewed all of the national social services data returns submitted by local authorities and requirements for data have been developed in line with the implementation of the Act. In relation to the main data sources for this release SSDA901 (Registers of people with learning disabilities) and SSDA900 (Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities), the Network agreed that 2016-17 would be the final year of collecting and reporting on this data. From April 2017, local authorities are required to collect the data detailed the Disabled people receiving care and support return.

## **Related publications**

Statistics collected in each United Kingdom country may differ and the detailed guidance available from each country's website should be consulted before using these statistics as comparative measures. Related publications are referenced below.

People with learning disabilities in England:

[Learning Disability Statistics - Annual Overview, England 2015-2016](#)

People in England with sensory disabilities (triennial report):

[Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People - Year Ending 31 March 2014, England](#)

People with learning disabilities in Scotland:

[Learning Disability Statistics Scotland, 2015](#)

People with visual disabilities in Scotland:

[Health and Community Care – Datasets: Registered Blind and Partially Sighted](#)

Additional information on Eyecare in Scotland can be found on the [ISD Scotland website](#).

Adult Community Statistics for Northern Ireland can be accessed on the [Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety website](#):

### **Further information**

Further information is available for other personal social services statistical releases on the [Welsh Government website](#):

## **National Statistics status**

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

## Further details

The document is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-registers-people-disabilities/?lang=en>

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.pss@gov.wales](mailto:stats.pss@gov.wales)

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## **Annex: A List of tables and data items provided on StatsWales**

1. [Persons with learning disabilities](#) by local authority, service and age range.  
([Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#) of the release)
2. [Physically/sensory disabled persons](#) by local authority, disability and age range.  
([Table 3](#) to [Table 5](#) of the release)
3. [Physically/sensory disabled persons, pre 2006-07](#) by local authority, disability and measure.  
([Table 6](#) of the release)