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Social model of disability: new question set

An impairment question and 2 barriers questions; for adults, and parents.

Questions for adults

Impairment question

In which, if any, of the following areas are you affected by long-term conditions or impairments? Include those that may come and go, or vary over time.

Please select all that apply.

1. **Seeing** – for example, getting around unfamiliar places, reading, even with glasses or contact lenses
2. **Hearing** – for example, following conversations in noisy places, hearing sounds
3. **Moving around** – for example, walking, getting up or down stairs without support
4. **Using your hands or fingers** – for example, dressing, using a keyboard
5. **Learning new things** – for example, reading, following instructions, or organising your thoughts on paper

6. **Remembering or focusing** - for example, recalling names or dates, staying focused on tasks
7. **Mental health** – for example, managing emotions or thoughts, experiencing hallucinations
8. **Managing energy levels or breathing** – for example, sleeping well, having the energy to complete daily activities
9. **Interacting with other people** – for example, expressing yourself, feeling overwhelmed by social situations
10. **Being in pain or discomfort** – for example, experiencing chronic pain or irritation that affects your mood, sleep, or concentration
11. **Sensory processing** – for example, being more or less sensitive to light, touch, or temperature
12. **Having an over or under active immune system** – for example, being prone to infection or inflammation
13. **Other** (please specify)
14. **None of the above**

Don't know

Prefer not to say

Barriers question 1: experience of barriers in different life domains

Which, if any, of the following have you experienced in the last 12 months?

Please select all that apply.

1. Health care that does not support my needs

For example, being treated unfairly by staff, difficult to use booking systems, waiting areas that are hard to move around

2. Employment and job opportunities that do not support my needs

For example, being left out of social activities, inflexible recruitment or workplace adjustments, workplaces that are hard to get in and around

3. Education and training that does not support my needs

For example, assumptions being made about my abilities, learning materials not in format I need, rooms that are hard to access or too noisy

4. Transport and travel that does not support my needs

For example, staff not treating me with dignity, difficult to use booking systems, lack of accessible seating

5. Housing and independent living arrangements that do not support my needs

For example, people assuming I cannot live alone, long waiting lists for accessible housing, lack of adaptations to existing home

6. Community and social activities do not support my needs

For example, people assuming I cannot take part in events, information on venues not in accessible formats, shops and businesses with unsuitable parking

7. Public spaces and facilities that do not support my needs

For example, feedback on accessibility not taken seriously, limited opening hours, lack of accessible toilets and public facilities

8. Financial services and benefits that do not support my needs

For example, people assuming I cannot look after my own money, welfare payments do not cover living costs, hard-to-access banking services

9. Voting and opportunities to get involved in politics that do not support my needs

For example, people thinking I do not understand political issues, limited support to join in public life, not able to vote privately at polling station

10. Other (please give details)

11. None of these

Don't know

Prefer not to say

Barriers question 2: types of barriers experienced

Which, if any, of the following have you experienced in the last 12 months?

Please select all that apply.

1. Information and communication that is not accessible

For example, health information not in a format I need, not having enough time to process information, booking systems that are hard to use

2. Buildings and spaces that are not suitable

For example, public buildings that are too noisy or bright, workplaces with no ramps or lifts, accessible toilets that are not suitable

3. Views and behaviour from others that are not supportive

For example, health staff making assumptions about me, co-workers using offensive language towards me or leaving me out, my views not taken being taken seriously

4. Rules, policies, and practices that do not support my needs

For example, health staff not adequately trained to support my needs, lack of adjustments by employers, not enough money or support to live independently

5. Other (please give details)

6. None of these

Don't know

Prefer not to say

Questions for parents

Impairment question

In which, if any, of the following areas is [Name of child / your child] affected by long-term conditions or impairments? Include those that may come and go, or vary over time.

Please select all that apply.

1. **Seeing** – for example, getting around unfamiliar places, reading, even with glasses or contact lenses
2. **Hearing** – for example, following conversations in noisy places, hearing sounds
3. **Moving around** – for example, walking, getting up or down stairs without support
4. **Using your hands or fingers** – for example, dressing themselves, using a keyboard, picking up a toy
5. **Learning new things** – for example, reading, following instructions, or organising their thoughts on paper
6. **Remembering or focusing** - for example, recalling names or dates, staying focused on tasks
7. **Mental health** – for example, managing their emotions or thoughts, experiencing hallucinations
8. **Managing energy levels or breathing** – for example, sleeping well, having the energy to complete daily activities or play
9. **Interacting with other people** – for example, expressing themselves, feeling overwhelmed by social situations
10. **Being in pain or discomfort** – for example, experiencing chronic pain or irritation that affects their mood, sleep, or concentration
11. **Sensory processing** – for example, being more or less sensitive to light, touch, or temperature
12. **Having an over or under active immune system** – for example, being prone to infection or inflammation
13. **Other** (please specify)
14. **None of the above**

Don't know

Prefer not to say

Barriers question 1: experience of barriers in different life domains

Which, if any, of the following has [Name of child / your child] experienced in the last 12 months? Please answer about your child.

Please select all that apply.

1. Health care that does not support your child's needs

For example, being treated unfairly by staff, difficult to use booking systems, waiting areas that are hard for them to move around

2. Education and training that does not support your child's needs

For example, assumptions being made about their abilities, learning materials not in format they need, rooms that are hard to access or too noisy

3. * Employment and job opportunities that do not support your child's needs*

For example, working hours that are not flexible, no quiet area to make calls to doctors or school

4. Transport and travel that does not support your child's needs

For example, staff not treating them with dignity, difficult to use booking systems, lack of accessible seating

5. Housing and independent living arrangements that do not support your child's needs

For example, people assuming they know what my child can do, long waiting lists for accessible housing, lack of adaptations to existing home

6. Community and social activities do not support your child's needs

For example, people assuming they cannot take part in events, information on venues not in accessible formats, shops and businesses with unsuitable parking

7. Public spaces and facilities that do not support your child's needs

For example, feedback on accessibility not taken seriously, limited opening hours, lack of accessible toilets and public facilities

8. Financial services and benefits that do not support your child's needs

For example, welfare payments do not cover living costs, hard-to-access banking services

9. Other (please give details)

10. None of these

Don't know

Prefer not to say

* The response option 'employment and job opportunities that do not support my child's needs' can be excluded if not relevant to the child (based on their age) or there is no interest in collecting data on indirect barriers a disabled child might experience.

Barriers question 2: types of barriers experienced

Which, if any, of the following has [Name of child / your child] experienced in the last 12 months? Please answer about your child.

Please select all that apply.

1. Information and communication that is not accessible

For example, health information not in a format they need, not having enough time to process information, travel booking systems that are hard to use

2. Buildings and spaces that are not suitable

For example, buildings that are too noisy or bright, public spaces with no ramps or lifts, accessible toilets that are not suitable

3. Views and behaviour from others that are not supportive

For example, health staff making assumptions about them, people using offensive language towards them or leaving them out, their views not taken being taken seriously

4. Rules, policies, and practices that do not support my needs

For example, health staff not adequately trained to support their needs, lack of adjustments at school or nursery, not enough money or support to live independently

5. Other (please give details)

6. None of these

Don't know

Prefer not to say

Full Research Report: Rutherford, L., Collins, D., Shah, D., Das, A., Radicati, A., and Begum, Y., Rogers, K., Swannack, R., & Young, A. (2026). Social model of disability: Final report. Cardiff: Welsh Government, GSR report number 57/2026.

Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/social-model-disability>

Views expressed in this report are those of the researchers and not necessarily those of the Welsh Government.

For further information please contact:

Laura Tolland

Disability Disparity Evidence Unit

Equality, Poverty, Children's Evidence and Support Division

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Team email: EqualityEvidenceUnit@gov.wales

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

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