Purpose of this Paper

This paper has been designed to help inform service and policy planning. It is part of a series of seven guides to available research and statistical evidence relating to the varying needs, experiences and outcomes of different equality characteristics in Bournemouth protected under the Equality Act 2010. It provides a top-level view of this specific subject area and identifies contacts and resources for people who would like more detailed information.

Structure of this Paper

Each protected characteristic has 10 domains which focus directly on the most important aspects of life that people identify with, in terms of who they are and what they do. They are central to the Equality Measurement Framework which provides a baseline of evidence that enables the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to evaluate progress and decide priorities.

Contents

1. The Local Population of Interest
2. Key Domains for this Characteristic:
   a. Health and Longevity
   b. Education
   c. Physical and Legal Security
   d. Standard of Living
   e. Productive and Valued Activities
   f. Individual, Family and Social Life
   g. Participation, Influence and Voice
   h. Identity, Expression and Self-Respect
   i. Marriage and Civil Partnerships
   j. Pregnancy and Maternity
3. Sources of Information

The Local Population of Interest

The Equality Act 2010 says that a person has a “disability” if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a long term and substantial adverse affect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. In most cases, a person will have this protected characteristic if they have had a disability in the past, even if they no longer have the disability. People who have a disability, and those who have had one in the past, are protected because of this characteristic against harassment and discrimination, including discrimination arising from disability (Services, public functions and associations: Statutory Code of Practice, Equality and Human Rights Commission).

In 2011, more than 10 million people were limited in daily activities in England and Wales. Across England, there was a general north-south divide with numbers of people limited in daily activities lower in the south and higher in the north (Disability in England and Wales, ONS, 2011).
The prevalence of disability rises with age, around 6% of children are disabled, compared to 15% of working age adults and 45% of adults over state pension age in Great Britain (Family Resources Survey 2010/11, DWP). Over two-thirds of people over 85 are disabled, while forecasts predict a rise of 86% in the number of disabled people over the age of 65 by 2026 (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

In 2011, 18.6% of the population in Bournemouth said their day-to-day activities were limited either a lot (8.6%) or a little (10%) by a long-term health problem or disability. The chart below shows how these figures compare with those of the South–West region as a whole and England and Wales (2011 Census: Long-term health problem or disability, local authorities in England and Wales, ONS).

Key Domains for this Protected Characteristic

Legend:

- National data
- Bournemouth data

Health and Longevity

The proportion of the English population meeting the criteria for one common mental disorder increased from 15.5% in 1993 to 17.6% in 2007. During this period, women (19.7%) were more likely than men (12.5%) to have a common mental disorder. 24% of people with a common mental disorder were receiving treatment for an emotional or mental problem, mostly in the form of medication. In 2009/10, where a diagnosis was included for those who spent time in hospital, schizophrenia accounted for the most bed days which was nearly double that of the second most common diagnosis, mood affective disorders (Key facts and trends in Mental Health 2011, Mental Health Foundation).

Around 18% of all adults in the UK experience long-term pain, 13% have chronic health conditions and 8% have a mobility impairment. Those with impairment often report their health condition, impairment or disability as being a barrier to participating in life areas (Life Opportunity Survey Wave 1 2009/11, ONS via Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).
In 2011, around half of the 11.5 million people defined as disabled by the Equality Act were in receipt of disability-related benefits (Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 2011 via Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

In 2012, disabled people’s satisfaction with life was significantly lower than for non-disabled people. Similarly, a significantly lower number of disabled people felt that the things they did in life were worthwhile. Non-disabled people felt significantly happier and less anxious the previous day than disabled people (Annual Population Survey 2012, ONS).

15 million people (30%) in the UK have a long-term illness, while 18% have a limiting long-term illness. Disabled people are often vulnerable to secondary health conditions, for example, almost a third of people with long-term physical conditions have a concurrent mental health condition such as depression or anxiety (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

Approximately, 10% of the population in Bournemouth and Poole provide unpaid care to someone who is ill, frail or disabled (Bournemouth and Poole Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016).

In 2010/11, there were 748 adults with learning disabilities in Bournemouth that were known to GPs. This was just above the national average and a slight increase from the figures for 2009/10. In addition, awareness of adults with learning disabilities in the local authority area was lower than the regional (4.9 per thousand) and national averages (4.33 per thousand) at 3.19 adults in every one thousand people that the Local Authority identified (Bournemouth Learning Disabilities Profile, LDO:NHS, 2012).

A 2011 consultation discovered that disabled people in Bournemouth felt leisure provision in the Borough was inadequate and further consultation was needed on how this could be improved (DOTS Consultation: A Fairer Bournemouth Single Equality Scheme 2011 (n=5)).

**Education**

Disabled people are, approximately, three times as likely not to hold any qualifications compared to non-disabled people, and around half as likely to hold a degree-level qualification. 19.2% of disabled people of working age do not hold any formal qualification, compared to 6.5% of working age non-disabled people. 14.9% of disabled people of working age hold degree-level qualifications compared to 28.1% of working age non-disabled people (Labour Force Survey, Quarter 2, ONS 2012 in Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

Once young people finish full-time education and start to move into work, a much bigger gap in attainment between disabled and non-disabled people appears. The gap widens to 27.8 percentage points at age 23 and increases further to 36.2 percentage points at age 24 (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

There has been a substantial drop in the number of disabled people without a level 3 qualification, falling by 21% between 2000 and 2010. In 2010/11, 60% of disabled students who completed their first degree achieved a first class or upper second class degree compared to 64% of non-disabled children (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

Disabled and older people in Bournemouth felt that much inequality occurs in education and that it is vital to ensure access to education is equal for all regardless of disability (DOTS Consultation: A Fairer Bournemouth Single Equality Scheme 2011).
In 2011, for every thousand children attending state schools in Bournemouth, 3.39 had severe learning difficulties, which was below the national average. These children had serious difficulty participating in ordinary school programs and had limited communication and self-help skills. By contrast, 1.10 children in every thousand known to schools had profound and multiple learning difficulties (Bournemouth Learning Disabilities Profile, LDO:NHS, 2012).

**Physical and Legal Security**

Of the 43,748 hate crimes recorded by police in the UK in 2011/12, 1,744 (4%) were disability hate crimes which represents an increase of almost 25% from the previous year. 63% of these involved violence against the person, one in five (20%) of which resulted in injury (Hate Crimes England and Wales 2011/12, Home Office).

Over 2,500 defendants were prosecuted for disability hate crime in England and Wales in the five years from April 2007 to March 2012 (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013). In 2011/12, most defendants were men (77%) but there was a significantly higher proportion of women (22.9%) compared to other types of hate crime. Interestingly, the proportion of defendants aged 10-13 and 14-17 has dropped significantly from 4.9% and 23.5% respectively in 2007/08 to 0.8% and 15% in 2011/12 (Hate crime and crimes against older people, CPS, 2012).

0.1% of adults were a victim of disability hate crime in 2009/10 and 2010/11, which equates to an estimated 65,000 incidents of disability hate crime on average per year. Motivations for hate crimes experienced by disabled people are not always due to their disability, however, adults with mental health conditions and cognitive impairment were most likely to experience hate crime (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

9 disability hate crimes were recorded in the Dorset police force area in 2011/12 (Hate Crimes England and Wales 2011/12, Home Office).

A survey in Dorset found that, 40 out of 101 people surveyed said they had been frightened or hurt by another person because of their disability or age. For many disabled and older people these are not isolated incidents; 12 people said some form of abuse was happening once or twice a month while 5 reported incidents weekly. 6 people identified the perpetrators as professionals (eg. doctors, housing officers etc). Finally, the report showed that although most disabled and elderly victims report incidents to family or friends, few report them to police (Fear and Bullying in Dorset 2012, Access Dorset).

**Standard of Living**

People with mental health conditions are far less likely to be homeowners and are more likely to be living in rented accommodation compared to those with no disorder. Research indicates that 43% of people accessing homelessness projects in England suffer from a mental health condition. An estimated 69% of rough sleepers suffer from both mental ill health and a substance abuse problem (Key facts and trends in mental health 2011, Mental Health Foundation).

There are 380,000 people living in residential care in the UK, many of whom are disabled (Department of Health, 2012).

Disabled people are more likely to live in poverty than non-disabled people. Disabled children (32%) are more likely to live in a lone-parent family than a non-disabled child (22%). A quarter of disabled children live with one or more siblings who also have a disability, while almost half of disabled children live with a disabled parent. Finally, disabled people are more likely to live in homes with
Disabled people in the UK are nearly a third less likely to experience difficulties in accessing transport compared to the EU average. The mode of transport that adults with impairment are most likely to experience difficulties with is using long distance buses (38%) and the least likely is travelling by taxi (24%) (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

Roughly 50% of households in the UK who are likely to have their benefit reduced (when caps are introduced in 2013) will have a person who is classed as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 (Benefit Cap: Equality Impact Assessment 2012, DWP).

In 2008, there was a strong negative association between disability and income in Bournemouth, as 36% of households with a disabled resident had a household income below £10,000 per annum. This represents approximately 5,270 dwellings in Bournemouth whose residents may not only have struggled to carry out repairs on their homes but were probably also less likely to be able to afford alternative provision (Bournemouth Private Sector House Condition Survey, 2008).

In 2011, disabled and older people in Bournemouth felt that the bus service was inadequate and turned to taxi services to compensate for this. They felt that improvements to public transport provision would make a significant impact in reducing their feeling of isolation (DOTS Consultation: A Fairer Bournemouth Single Equality Scheme 2011).

In May 2012, there were 8,960 Disability Living Allowance Claimants in the Bournemouth and Poole conurbation (Welfare Reform – Implications for Health and Wellbeing, Bournemouth and Poole 2013).

Geographical analysis shows that people with disabilities, their carers, and families with children with disabilities in Bournemouth will be particularly and disproportionately affected by the Council Tax Benefit reforms implemented in April 2013 (Welfare Reform – Implications for Health and Wellbeing, Bournemouth and Poole 2013).

Productive and Valued Activities

Nationally, in 2011/12, 7,700 disability discrimination claims were accepted by the Employment Tribunals Service. This increased from 7,200 in 2010/11 and 7,500 in 2009/10 (Employment Tribunal and EAT statistics 2011/12).

1 in 6 people who become disabled while in work in 2011, lost their employment during the first year after becoming disabled (Disability in the United Kingdom, 2011, Papworth Trust).

46.3% of working-age disabled people are employed compared to 76.4% of non-disabled people of working-age (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

Employment rates for older disabled people (aged 50 and over) in the UK have increased from 34.9% in 2001 to 41% in 2012. By contrast, employment rates for young disabled people have dropped from 46% in 2001 to 36% in 2012. The most frequently reported barriers amongst unemployed adults, with an impairment, are their health condition (26%) and the lack of job opportunities (25%) (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).
In 2011, 6,176 people in Bournemouth were economically inactive and were long-term sick or disabled (2011 Census: Economic activity in England Wales).

In 2010/11, there were 1,400 (13.4%) disabled people in Bournemouth who were unemployed compared to 4,600 (6.8%) non-disabled people (GMB, 2012).

**Individual, Family and Social Life**

Adults with an impairment have a lower level of social contact as they are likely to have no or just one or two close contacts compared with adults without an impairment. 76% of adults with an impairment reported other people being too busy as a barrier compared to 51% of adults without an impairment. Other reasons include financial difficulties and problems with transport (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

A survey in 2011 identified that 33% of people with a learning disability in Bournemouth used day centre services 5 days a week and wanted to be supported to go out during the daytime on weekdays more than any other time of the week. They also identified that people with learning disabilities preferred to go out with a small group of people than on their own or in a large group. Finally, they said that they preferred their day services to be organised by the Council/Day Centre (Bournemouth LINk Learning Disability Day Service Review Report 2010/2011 (n=172)).

**Participation, Influence and Voice**

According to the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) Indicator E2, 55% of disabled people undertook at least one activity of civic involvement (e.g. formal volunteering, civic activism, civic participation) in the last 12 months, compared to 57% of non-disabled people. 10% of disabled people were involved in civic activism by being a local councillor, school governor, volunteer Special Constable or a Magistrate, compared to 9% of non-disabled people (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

Adults with impairments are likely to be carers themselves. 15% of adults with impairments provide informal care compared with 8% of adults without impairment (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

At the time of writing, local data was unavailable for this dimension.

**Identity, Expression and Self-Respect**

People with vision or mobility impairments are more likely to think of themselves as disabled whereas those with dexterity impairment or with breathing, stamina or fatigue are less likely to. Those who have had their condition since birth are more likely to think of themselves as disabled (ONS Opinions Survey 2012).

Disabled people want the same things from life as everybody else. In focus groups run by ONS with disabled people, ‘Being able to look after myself at home’ was seen as being important (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

At the time of writing, local data was unavailable for this dimension.

**Marriage and Civil Partnership**

Research in 2010 indicated that men with learning disabilities were at a significantly higher risk of forced marriage in the UK than men without learning disabilities. They were potentially more
vulnerable as their risk of being involved in a forced marriage was less likely to be recognised (Forced Marriage and Learning Disabilities, HM Government Multi-Agency, 2010).

There is also anecdotal evidence from the same research that suggests young women with learning disabilities can be forced to marry young men who have in some way “disgraced” family honour and are now regarded as unsuitable to enter into any other marriage (Forced Marriage and Learning Disabilities, HM Government Multi-Agency, 2010).

In 2012, 114 cases (7.7%) of reported forced marriages in the UK involved people with disabilities (Forced Marriage Statistics Jan-Dec 2012, UK Border Agency).

Disabled people are more likely to remain single or to be divorced or separated. Among those aged 30-44, 36% of disabled people remain single compared to 26% of non-disabled people. In this same age group, 19% of disabled people are divorced compared with 14% of non-disabled people (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

There is an increased risk of separation during the early stages of parenting a disabled child. The likelihood of becoming a lone-parent household is greatest when the disabled child is aged 12 months to 2 years (Fulfilling Potential: Building a deeper understanding of disability in the UK today, DWP, 2013).

The Government does not envisage an adverse impact on any marital or civil partnership groups in the UK following the introduction of benefit caps in 2013. However, it is not possible to give any accurate assessment of the impact as the DWP does not collect information on the marital or civil partnership status of claimants (Benefit Cap: Equality Impact Assessment 2012, DWP).

At the time of writing, local data was unavailable for this dimension.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Little research has been undertaken into disabled women's maternity needs but in 2007 they were identified as a group which maternity services were failing. Much of the evidence for this was anecdotal in nature. Disability legislation didn’t see parenting as a central issue and practice was insufficiently influenced by disabled people (Pregnancy and Disability, RCN, 2007).

This view was supported by a survey conducted by the charity Disability, Pregnancy and Parenthood International (DPPI) which found that parents were resorting to the internet, in particular online communities for information and peer support. They also found that there was a lack of knowledge and awareness of the specific needs of disabled mothers during, and after, pregnancy amongst midwives and health professionals. Disabled mothers had experienced negative attitudes from health professionals including being pressured to terminate pregnancies, pressure to test for disabilities in the baby, and insensitivity towards the needs of disabled fathers. Other findings included disabled mothers being pressured to have Caesareans, assumptions being made about whether or not they would breastfeed, and added pressure due to strict rules about father’s visiting hours after birth (The maternity information gap for physically disabled people, DPPI, 2009).

At the time of writing, local data was unavailable for this dimension.

Sources of Information Regarding Disability:

The following section provides links to local reports and datasets that offer further insight into the diverse nature of the varying disability groups in Bournemouth. However, it should be noted that due to population sizes and inconsistent data monitoring, the information available at local level is
often limited. For more robust, national sources of equality information, please refer to the Local Government Association ‘Equality Evidence Base’, and the Equality and Human Rights Commission ‘Review of Equality Statistics. If you are aware of any further local information please contact statistics@bournemouth.gov.uk.

Please note that a more detailed analysis of all subject areas will be possible once relevant 2011 Census cross tabulation data is made available by the Office for National Statistics.

**Reports Providing Specific Information on Disability**

**DOTS Consultation Report: Bournemouth Town Centre Action Plan** – summarises the feedback received from a consultation with disabled people in 2010 on the Bournemouth area, particularly the town centre. Available [here](#).

**LDO Bournemouth Learning Disability Profile** – provides a comprehensive overview of learning disabilities in Bournemouth while comparing rates with national and regional figures. Available [here](#).

**DOTS Core Strategy Bournemouth Plan Report** - A consultation meeting was carried out with DOTS Disability to provide disabled people with an opportunity to have an input into the Core Strategy document. Available [here](#).

**DOTS disability consultation: Web Transformation** - A consultation forum held with DOTS Disability to seek the views of people with disabilities on the web transformation project. Available [here](#).

**DOTS disability: Triangle report** - A discussion group was held with DOTS Disability to discuss the plans for the Triangle. Available [here](#).

**DOTS Influencing Decisions report** - A discussion group was held with DOTS Disability to gather the views of local disabled people on how effective Bournemouth Borough Council and its partners are at involving local people in decision-making. Available [here](#).

**Place Survey Disability Report, 2008** – Consultation with DOTS Disability into the results of the 2008 Place Survey. Available [here](#).

**Reports Which Contain Analysis of Information By Disability**

**Fear and Bullying in Dorset 2012** – a report by Access Dorset on the experiences of disabled and older people in Dorset. Available [here](#).

**Health & Wellbeing: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** – Provides a rich picture of the current and future needs of the local population. Available [here](#).

**Reports on Disability Related Services**

**Personal Social Services User Survey** - A statutory annual postal survey of homecare users, including service satisfaction measures. Available [here](#).

**Bournemouth LINk Learning Disability Day Service Review Report 2010/11** – a review of Bournemouth learning disability day care services. Available [here](#).

**Developing Day Services in Dorset: Service User and Carer Consultation** – report by the charity Access Dorset that provides information on what disabled people value about day services in Dorset. Available [here](#).
Local Disability Relevant Datasets and Indicators

Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Independent development and social research charity, supporting a wide programme of research and development projects in housing, social care and social issues.  
http://www.jrf.org.uk/

Knowledge Base, Equality South West Data Tool - collates and disaggregates (where possible), by local area and by equality characteristic and socio-economic status, existing data from a wide range of reliable and widely used national data sets, and is capable of detailed interrogation and analysis for a range of local equality purposes. Available here.

Neighbourhood Statistics – Allows you to find detailed statistics within specific geographic areas e.g. Local Authority, Ward, Super Output Area.  
http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/

Nomisweb – service provided by the Office for National Statistics providing detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics.  
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

Office for National Statistics - The Office for National Statistics produces independent information to improve our understanding of the UK’s economy and society.  
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp

This paper is one in a series of seven profiling the protected Equality Characteristics produced by the Corporate Research Team, Borough of Poole, in co-operation with the Research & Information Team, Bournemouth. These reports have been produced in line with LGA guidance (2012) on measuring equality at a local level. To view the papers on Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Religion/Belief, Sexual Orientation and Social Inequality [insert link for profiles].

For more information on research and consultation reports for Bournemouth please contact the Research & Information team on (01202) 454684 or email statistics@bournemouth.gov.uk.