

## National Survey (ref 20)

### Introduction

**People with Learning Difficulties are Often Socially Excluded**

**People with Learning Difficulties Often Have Little Control Over Their Lives**

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### Introduction

Adults with Learning Disability in England - National Survey 2003-2004

The Government said in *Valuing People* that they would carry out a survey 'about the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families'. It was the first time a national survey of adults with learning disabilities in England has been done.

The survey was carried out by a research team made up of BMRB Social Research (a research company), Professor Eric Emerson (from the Institute for Health Research at Lancaster University) and Central England People First Research Team (an organisation run by and for people with learning difficulties).

Between July 2003 and October 2004 they interviewed 2,898 people with learning difficulties who were at least 16 years old. One in four of the interviews (24%) was just with the person with learning difficulties. In the rest of the interviews a support person was present - parents, another relative or paid carers. In just under half of the interviews (46%), the person with learning difficulties answered most of the questions.

See the findings below.

### **People with Learning Difficulties are Often Socially Excluded**

People living in private households and people supported under Supporting People were more likely to live in poor and deprived areas.

Only one in six people with learning difficulties who were of 'working age' (17%) had a paid job. Nearly two out of three people (65%) who were unemployed (and said they were able to work) said they would like a job.

People who had learning difficulties were much more likely not to see friends than people who do not have learning difficulties. One in four people (25%) had friends who did not have learning difficulties.

One in three people (32%) said they did not feel safe either in their homes, their local area or using public transport. Nearly one in three people (32%) said someone had been rude or offensive to them in the last year because they have learning difficulties. Nearly one in ten people (9%) said they had been the victim of crime in the last year.

One in six (15%) said that their general health was 'not good'.

### People with Learning Difficulties Often Have Little Control Over Their Lives

Two out of three people in supported accommodation (64%) had no choice over either who they lived with or where they lived. One in three people (39%) did not have enough privacy.

### People with Learning Difficulties Have Few Opportunities to be Independent

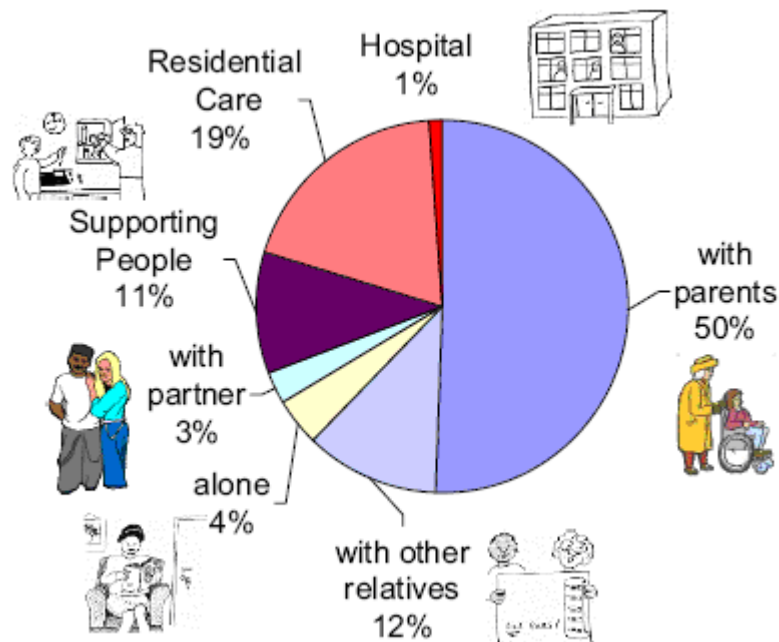
Half of all adults with learning difficulties (50%) were still living with their parent(s). Another one in ten (12%) were living with other relatives. Only about one in fifteen (7%) were living either on their own or with a partner.

Just under one in three people (31%) were living in some form of supported accommodation.

Of the people living in supported accommodation:

- nearly two out of three (62%) were living in residential care homes
- one in three (34%) were being supported under the Supporting People programme
- the rest (3%) were living in NHS hospitals.
- These results are summarised in Figure 3 (see below).
- The living arrangements for people with learning difficulties were very different from the living arrangements for adults in general.

### Where People Were Living



### Who Is More Likely to Live in Supported Accommodation?

People were more likely to live in supported accommodation if (in order of importance) they:

- were older
- had higher support needs
- were not Asian
- did not have poor general health
- did not have a long-standing illness or disability

### What Did People Not Like About Where They Lived

- People with learning difficulties were most concerned about the area they lived
- Support staff were most concerned about how independent people could be.

## People Living in Supported Accommodation

- 75% shared with 4 or more people, 22% in houses for more than 10
- 2/3 said they had no choice about who they lived with and 1/2 no choice where they lived
- 93% said they liked where they lived, 94% of support people thought it suitable
- Those who were unhappy with where they lived it was usually because of area
- The main complaints were needing more space 32%, ground floor accommodation 17%,
- 9% said they didn't feel safe in the local area
- People generally didn't mind house rules or having to share a bathroom or kitchen
- Overall 27% were thought to be living in unsuitable accommodation - they said they were unhappy, felt unsafe or the house was too crowded or needed repairs
- Overall, we found that over one in three people (39%) did not have enough privacy.

## Help with Housing

People living in private households were most likely to turn to family and friends for help. People living in supported accommodation were most likely to turn to a support worker for help.

Just over one in five people (23%) in private households said they had received support about housing. They were most likely to have received support from friends or family (43%), Social Services (30%), Housing Department (26%), a support worker (15%), their landlord (2%), the NHS (1%). Nearly two out of three people (65%) living in supported accommodation said they had received support about housing. They were most likely to have received support from a support worker (61%), Social Services (27%), friends or family (19%), Housing Department (6%), the NHS (3%), their landlord (1%).

The full Report and Summary can be downloaded from this link –

[www.housingoptions.org.uk/general\\_information/gi\\_resources\\_docs/National\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.housingoptions.org.uk/general_information/gi_resources_docs/National_Survey.pdf)

If you require further information or have other queries contact Housing Options.

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