

CAPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP



LEARNING DISABILITIES SUMMARY (2008)

Compiled by Stephen McMurray

Introduction

This summary updates information presented in ‘The Position of Joined up for Jobs Target Groups’ report in 2005. This report considered each target group and in addition to the categories below included; overlaps between the different target groups, perceived gaps in service provision, information gaps, and conclusions and recommendations. This report is available from CCP.

Scope

In Scottish terms, there are **22,875** adults with learning disabilities, which are estimated to be made up of **13,049** men and **9,826** women (Scottish Executive 2007). In Edinburgh, it is estimated that there are **3,049** people with learning disabilities. The City of Edinburgh Social Work Department is aware of **2,183** adults in Edinburgh with a learning disability. The Scottish Executive estimate that **20** people for every **1,000** have a mild or moderate learning disability; and **3** to **4** people for every **1,000** have a profound or multiple disabilities. Therefore, in the context of the working age population of Edinburgh, there are likely to be between **900** and **6,500** with some sort of learning disability. The Scottish Executive (2007) point to around **5.6** people per **1000** having a significant learning disability. In the context of Edinburgh, it seems reasonable to estimate that there around **1,700** people with learning disabilities of working age living in Edinburgh.

<u>TARGET GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER IN EDINBURGH</u>	<u>NOT WORKING</u>	<u>SOURCES</u>
Learning Disabilities	Likely to be between 900 and 6,500 (Between 3 and 20 people per 1,000 have a profound to mild disability) Approx 1,700 of working age likely to be classified as disabled (5.6 per 1,000)	939 on IB/SDA, though only 281 paid working	Labour Force Survey 2001, DWP 2008, Scottish Executive 2007

Definition

People with learning disabilities are defined by the NHS and Social Work Department as having an IQ less than 70. Individuals who have dyslexia and other disabilities that are disadvantaged in the workplace and have an IQ above 70 are generally referred to as having a learning difficulty and not a learning disability. The Scottish Executive define people with learning disabilities as having a significant, lifelong condition that started before adulthood, that affected their development and which means they need help to understand information, learn skills and cope independently. There are also people who have had accidents which have had an impact on their ability to do mental tasks; generally they are included in physical disabilities, though they have an impact on the ability to do mental tasks. People with Asperger’s Syndrome and Autism have been included in the learning disabled category in the context of this report.

Employment

The Labour Force Survey in 2001 reports that only **21.4%** of people with learning disabilities were in paid work. This is considerably lower than any category of people with physical disabilities. In Edinburgh, **132** adults with learning disabilities were engaged in open employment, **10** were engaged in voluntary work and **149** were engaged in non-open employment, **560** were in further education and **153** were in training (Scottish Executive 2007).

Benefits

One problem in the IB/SDA figures is that learning disabilities are included in the same categories as people with mental health problems – Mental and Behavioural Disorders. Therefore it is likely there will be a lot of overlaps in the categories between learning disabilities and mental health problems.

IB/SDA CLAIMANTS IN THE CITY OF EDINBURGH (MAY 2007)

Disorders of Psychological Development	653
Mental Retardation	286

Source: DWP

It is estimated however, that there are around **1,700** people of working age with a learning disability living in Edinburgh. The Scottish Executive report that there are **281** people with a learning disability in Edinburgh working, however, the above figures only add up to **939**; therefore it is likely that people with learning disabilities feature elsewhere in the IB/SDA categories, though this represents a gap in our knowledge.

Barriers

In terms of barriers to employment, there does not appear to be an enormous amount of information other than the general barriers people with disabilities encounter. Though it is worth noting:

- People with learning difficulties are either classified as unsuitable or suitable for work, either of which cause difficulties in entering employment.
- Sometimes it is not recognised that people with learning disabilities who enter employment still need support in their home.
- Research carried out by F.A.I.R. indicated that people with learning disabilities have difficulties opening bank accounts (Hurcombe 2004).
- Benefit system acts as major disincentive.
- Generally require higher level of support than other categories.

Services

Along with the general support organisations, 4 other organisations provide services for people with a learning disability:

- **The Action Group** (Real Jobs Edinburgh) – Provide a supported employment service.
- **ENABLE Scotland** – Provide a supported employment service.
- **The Engine Shed** – Provide occupational training and a supported employment service.
- **Intowork** (Moving Intowork) – Assist people with Acquired Brain Injury and Asperger's Syndrome.

Further Reading

Hurcombe, M. (2004) Banking on Change, Increased Access to Banking Services by People with Learning Disabilities, Edinburgh, FAIR

Scottish Executive (2007) Adults with Learning Disabilities, Implementation of 'The Same as You?'

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