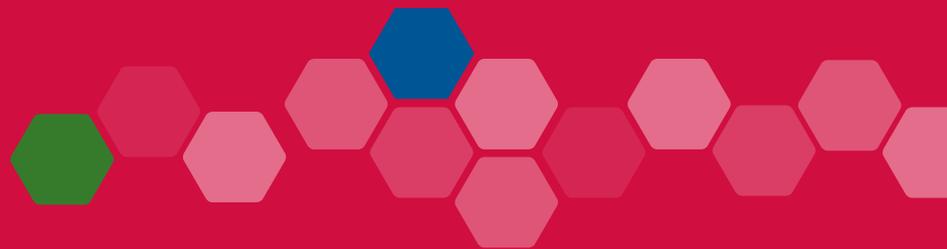




# Analysis of National Performance Framework Indicators from the Perspective of Disability



**EQUALITY AND WELFARE**

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## Executive Summary

This report compares the outcomes and experiences of disabled people to those of non-disabled people using indicators drawn from Scotland's National Performance Framework (NPF). This is an update to work published in 2019, and provides new indicator data primarily drawn from 2019 onwards, but prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This report also reflects on the impacts COVID-19 has had on disabled people.

Disability is defined in the Equality Act 2010 as a long-lasting health condition that limits daily activity. This two stage definition is used in most large scale surveys in Scotland. In 2019, the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) estimated that 35% of adults and 11% of children were disabled.<sup>1</sup>

In total the NPF contains 11 outcomes which are measured by 81 indicators; 13 of which are in development and 20 of which relate to national level data or structures rather than individuals. From the remaining 48 NPF indicators, eight cannot provide a breakdown by the disability protected characteristic.

Two new indicators have been added since the 2019 report, both of which are included in 'communities':

- Loneliness – a measure of which is drawn from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS)
- Places to Interact – also drawn from the SHS

Across the outcomes for which we have data, a considerable number of indicators suggest that disabled people face some barriers to fully participating in Scottish society. For example:

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<sup>1</sup> [Scottish Health Survey - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

- The rates of combined material deprivation and low income have been consistently higher in families with a disabled member
- Relative poverty rates were consistently higher where a household had a disabled member than where they did not
- Disabled people are more likely to have experienced food insecurity than non- disabled people
- There is lower mental wellbeing among disabled adults, along with higher levels of loneliness, higher engagement in health risk behaviours, and higher rates of difficulties among disabled children<sup>2</sup>
- There are lower rates of cultural participation and attendance among disabled people along with lower rates of access to green (parks, woods and countryside) and blue (rivers, lochs, coasts) space and visits to the outdoors

There have also been some significant changes since the last report was published in 2019<sup>3</sup>, a number of which are positive:

- Between 2017 and 2019 the percentage of adults with a limiting long-term condition meeting physical activity guidelines rose significantly from 49% to 55%
- In 2017 there was little difference in the percentage of people with a healthy weight when considering adults with limiting long-term conditions, and adults without a limiting long-term condition.

However, by 2019 there was a statistically significant difference. In

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<sup>2</sup> Based on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). This questionnaire is completed by parents as part of the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS).<sup>2</sup> The SDQ comprises 25 questions covering themes such as consideration, hyperactivity, malaise, mood, sociability, obedience, anxiety and unhappiness. It is used to measure five aspects of children's development: emotional symptoms; conduct problems; hyperactivity/inattention; peer relationship problems; and pro-social behaviour.

<sup>3</sup> Which uses data mainly from 2018, 2017 and before.

2019, 28% of adults with a limiting long-term condition were a healthy weight, compared to 35% of adults without a limiting long-term condition

- The proportion of disabled adults who were confident that everyone has access to the justice system when they need it increased significantly from 68% in 2017/18 to 73% in 2018/19
- In 2017, 21% of disabled people agreed with the statement “I can influence decisions affecting my local area”, but by 2019 this had reduced significantly to 17%<sup>4</sup>

In addition, this report also considers some of the ways COVID-19 is affecting disabled people. Indicator data which covers the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet available, but additional indicator data from a range of small-scale UK and Scottish surveys can provide some insights:

- Disabled adults have a range of limiting long-term physical health conditions, such as those affecting the heart and respiratory system, which are linked to increased vulnerability to COVID-19
- Disabled people are likely to have experienced increased mental health issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Disabled people have faced disruption to health and social care arrangements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have exacerbated food insecurity for disabled people
- There is also evidence indicating that disabled people are likely to come out of the COVID-19 pandemic in more debt

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<sup>4</sup> In order to improve comparability, for the 2020 update the NPF SHS indicator disability disaggregation was revised to be based on the same criteria as the harmonised questions from the Scottish Survey Core Questions.

## Introduction

In July 2019, Scottish Government published a [report](#) comparing the experiences and outcomes of disabled and non-disabled people in Scotland using National Performance Framework indicators. This report aims to update those indicators with new data, where available, as well as providing some commentary on how COVID-19 has affected disabled people. The Scottish Government is in the early stages of collecting data on this issue, but data from the third sector is helpful at revealing some of the impacts COVID-19 is having, and has had, on Scottish disabled people's lives.

Additional indicators have been included in order to help describe some key aspects of performance for disabled people, but where data might not quite fit an indicator because, for example, it measures the whole of the UK rather than only Scotland. In addition, data on the impacts of COVID-19 on disabled people have been included with the additional indicators.

The 'A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People – action plan'<sup>5</sup> published in 2016 was shaped by the experiences and insights of disabled people and the organisations that represent them. It was built around five longer-term ambitions:

- Support services that meet people's needs
- Decent incomes and fairer working lives
- Places that are accessible to everyone
- Protected rights

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<sup>5</sup> [A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People: delivery plan - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

- Active participation

This report should be considered alongside the 'A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People' progress report as providing evidence on the impact the action plan has had, and drawing attention to potential areas of focus for future action. In order to aid this process, where possible updated data is provided as a part of a time series allowing for comparison over time.

## **Definitions of Disability**

### **The Social Model of Disability**

This report adopts the social model of disability, which was developed by disabled people: activists who started the 'Independent Living Movement'. Unlike the medical model, where an individual is understood to be disabled by their impairment, the social model views disability as the relationship between the individual and society. In other words, it sees the barriers created by society, such as negative attitudes towards disabled people, and inaccessible buildings, transport and communication, as the cause of disadvantage and exclusion, rather than the impairment itself. The aim, then, is to remove the barriers that isolate, exclude and so disable the individual. However, as the social model is seldom used in the context of survey-based data collection, statistics using this definition are limited.

Where possible disability has been defined using Equality Act 2010 harmonised guidance<sup>6</sup>, which defines someone as being disabled if they have a longstanding condition (lasting or expecting to last for 12 months or more) which reduces\limits their ability to carry-out-day-to-day activities. However, not all indicator data is available in this form, and

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<sup>6</sup> [Measuring disability for the Equality Act 2010 harmonisation guidance – GSS \(civilservice.gov.uk\)](https://www.civilservice.gov.uk/gss/measuring-disability-for-the-equality-act-2010-harmonisation-guidance)

some surveys/publications use different definitions for disability (i.e. only longstanding conditions).

## **1. Children and Young People**

**National Outcome: We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential**

In total, there are seven indicators for Children and Young people in the National Performance Framework.<sup>7</sup> Two are not appropriate indicators for the purpose of this analysis, and one cannot be broken down by disability status. Updated data is available for the remaining four following indicators:

### **Children have Positive Relationships (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

This measure comes from the Scottish Schools and Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSAS). In 2018, disabled children were significantly<sup>8</sup> less likely than non-disabled children to report having three or more friends. Only three quarters (75%) of disabled children reported having three or more friends, while 84% of non-disabled children reported this.<sup>9</sup> This provides no significant changes on 2015.

### **Children's Voices (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

This measure comes from the 'Young People in Scotland' survey.<sup>10</sup> Survey data from 2017 and 2019 demonstrates that respondents have become more positive in response to the statement 'Generally, adults are good at taking my views into account when making decisions that

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<sup>7</sup> See [Scotland's Wellbeing: national outcomes for disabled people - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot) for a complete list of NPF indicators.

<sup>8</sup> Where a finding is referred to as 'significant' it means that is statistically significant. Statistical significance testing is used in surveys to determine how certain analysts are that differences seen in the survey are due to real-world differences, rather than random chance.

<sup>9</sup> SALSAS, see data in NPF Data Explorer [www.equalityevidence.scot](http://www.equalityevidence.scot)

<sup>10</sup> [Young people's participation in decision making: attitudes and perceptions - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

affect me.’ In 2017, the majority (53%) of respondents agreed with this statement, and in 2019 this had increased to 58% of respondents – a statistically significant difference.

However, significantly fewer disabled<sup>11</sup> young people agreed that adults were good at taking their views into account than non-disabled young people in 2019 (54% vs 62%). This was a positive increase on 2017, when 47% of disabled young people and 58% of non-disabled young people felt that adults were good at taking their views into account. However, the gap in opinion between disabled and non-disabled young people remains large.

### **Child Material Deprivation (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

According to data provided by the Family Resources Survey (FRS)<sup>12</sup>, in 2016-19, around one in eight (12%) of children in Scotland lived in combined material deprivation and low income<sup>13</sup>. The data demonstrates that the rate of combined material deprivation and low income has been consistently higher in families with a disabled member, with a fifth (20%) of families with a disabled member falling into this category, compared to a twelfth (8%) of families with no disabled members. This situation provides no change on 2015-18, when the figures were the same. New data will be available in March 2021.

### **Child Wellbeing and Happiness (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

This measure is based on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). This questionnaire is completed by parents as part of the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS).<sup>14</sup> The SDQ comprises 25 questions

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<sup>11</sup> This survey uses the parameter ‘Physical or mental health condition’, which is a ‘Yes’/‘No’ question. Answering yes is interpreted as a proxy for disability in the context of this report.

<sup>12</sup> [Additional child poverty analysis 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/additional-child-poverty-analysis-2020/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

<sup>13</sup> Below 70% of UK median equivalised household income after housing cost in the same period.

<sup>14</sup> [Scottish Health Survey - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-2019/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

covering themes such as consideration, hyperactivity, malaise, mood, sociability, obedience, anxiety and unhappiness. It is used to measure five aspects of children's development: emotional symptoms; conduct problems; hyperactivity/inattention; peer relationship problems; and pro-social behaviour.

In the period of 2016-2019, a significantly higher proportion of children with a limiting long-term condition had scores of total difficulties over the cut-off point at which scores are reported as “borderline or abnormal”. Significantly more children with a limiting long-term condition had an “abnormal” score of 17-40 than had a “borderline” score of 14-16 – 40% compared to 10%. Children’s SDQ scores 14-16 were also significantly higher for those with a limiting long-term condition than those with no long-term conditions (10% vs 6%), although there was no significant difference between children with limiting long-term conditions and children with non-limiting long-term conditions (10% vs 7%).

Children with a limiting long-term condition were significantly more likely to have a “abnormal” score of 17-40 – two fifths (40%) of these children had a score of 17-40, compared to 8% of children with a non-limiting long-term condition and 5% of children with no long-term conditions.<sup>15</sup>

### **Additional Indicator**

#### **Poverty and Low Income (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

Data from the FRS was analysed to report poverty rates for children living in a family with a disabled adult or child. It shows that, between 2016/17 and 2018/19, almost a third (30%) of children with a disabled person in the household were in relative poverty after housing costs. For families without a disabled member, the comparative figure was a fifth

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<sup>15</sup> [Scottish Health Survey 2019: supplementary tables - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/plain-language/scottish-health-survey-2019-supplementary-tables)

(20%). For severe poverty after housing costs, a fifth (21%) of children in families with a disabled member were in this situation, compared to only 14% of children in families without a disabled member.<sup>16</sup>

There is some variation in outcomes based on which family member was disabled. For households where the disabled family member was a child, a quarter (25%) of children lived in relative poverty after housing costs, compared to 23% of children in families without a disabled child. When the disabled member was an adult, the number of children in relative poverty after housing costs rose to 31%, compared to 21% for families without a disabled adult.<sup>17</sup>

## **2. Communities**

**National Outcome: We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe**

In total there are eight indicators for Communities in the National Performance Framework. Two indicators are newly developed, while a further two are not yet developed. Updated data is available for the following indicators:

### **Perceptions of Local Area (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS)<sup>18</sup> asks respondents if their neighbourhood is a very good place to live. Figure 1, below, suggests that since 2011 the gap in perceptions between disabled and non-disabled people has been growing, with fewer disabled people viewing their neighbourhood as a very good place to live. In 2019, significantly

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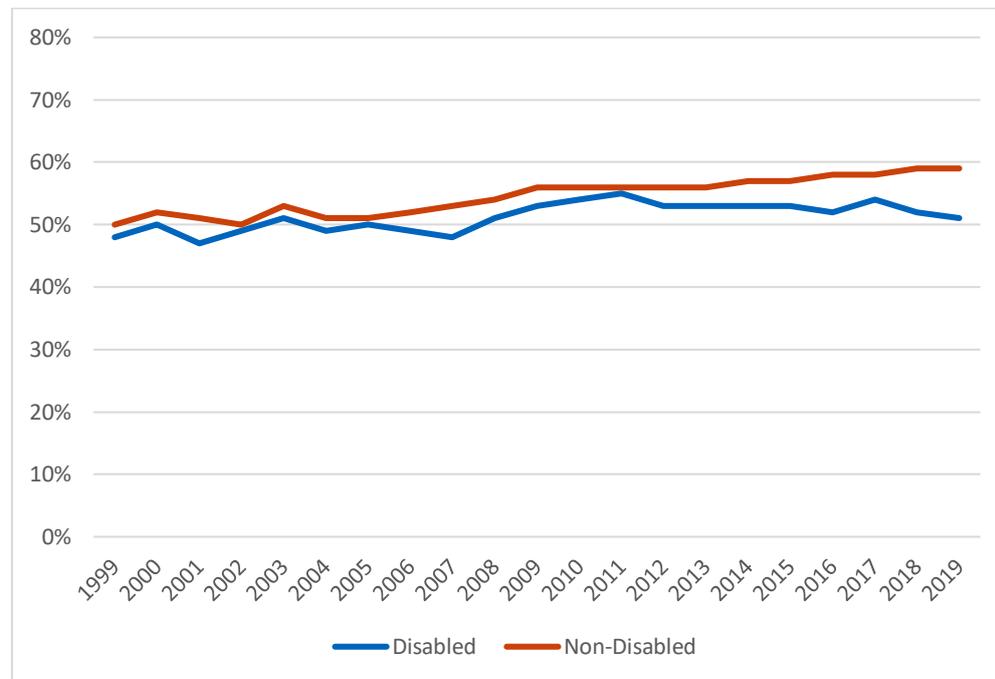
<sup>16</sup> Supplementary tables child poverty, page 8 here: [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2016-19 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/collections/documents/2016-19-pov-scot-19-01-2019.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Supplementary tables child poverty, page 8 here: [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2016-19 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/collections/documents/2016-19-pov-scot-19-01-2019.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Scottish Household Survey, NPF Data Explorer [www.equalityevidence.scot](https://www.equalityevidence.scot/)

fewer disabled people viewed their neighbourhood as a very good place to live compared to non-disabled people (51% vs 59%).

**Figure 1: % of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live 1999-2019, by disability**



Source: Scottish Household Survey 1999-2019

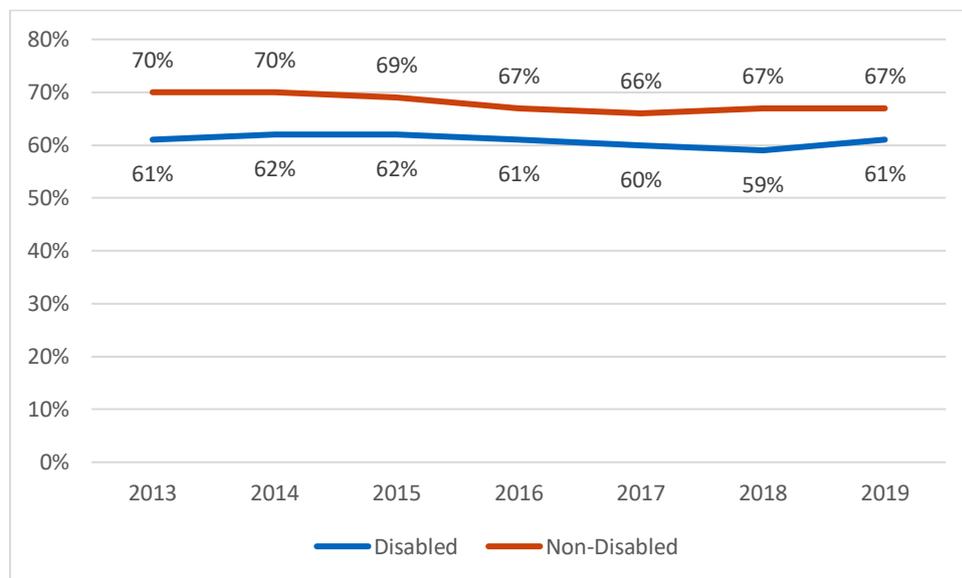
### **Access to Green and Blue Space (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

“Access to green and blue space” is measured by the SHS using a question which defines greenspaces as “public green or open spaces in the local area, for example a park, countryside, wood, play area, canal path, riverside or beach”.<sup>19</sup> The SHS indicates that, compared to non-disabled people, a smaller proportion of disabled people lived within a 5 minute walk of their local green or blue space. This access gap has remained fairly consistent over time (see figure 2). In 2019, significantly fewer disabled people lived within 5 minutes’ walk of their nearest green

<sup>19</sup> [Scottish household survey 2019: annual report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2019-annual-report/pages/100/)

or blue space - three fifths (61%) of disabled adults had this access, compared to just over two thirds (67%) of non-disabled adults.

**Figure 2: % of adults living within 5 minutes' walk of their nearest green or blue space 2013-2019, by disability**



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2013-2019

### Perceptions of Crime (Pre COVID-19 Data)

This National Indicator looks at the proportion of people who believe the local crime rate has stayed the same or reduced (combined). According to the 2018/19 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)<sup>20</sup> significantly fewer disabled people than non-disabled people thought that the rate of crime in their local area over the last two years had stayed the same or reduced (67% vs 75%). In the same period, significantly more disabled than non-disabled people thought that crime had increased in their local area over the last two years (28% of disabled people compared to 20% of non-disabled people).<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

<sup>21</sup> [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

There was no significant change in the perceived change of the local crime rate amongst disabled people between 2017/18 and 2018/19.

### **Crime Victimization (Pre COVID-19 data)**

The 2018/19 SCJS also indicates that disabled adults were significantly more likely to be victims of crime than non-disabled adults. In 2018/19, 14.7% of disabled adults had been a victim of at least one crime, compared to 11.8% of non-disabled adults. Disabled adults were more likely to have experienced violent crime compared to non-disabled adults (3.2% compared to 1.9%) however there was no significant difference between these two groups when looking at experiences of property crime.

There was no change in the proportion of disabled or non-disabled adults experiencing crime between 2017/18 and 2018/19.

### **Loneliness (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

The SHS asks respondents if they have felt lonely in the last week. In 2018, significantly more disabled people felt lonely some, most or all of the time during the last week than non-disabled people (34% compared to 16%).<sup>22</sup>

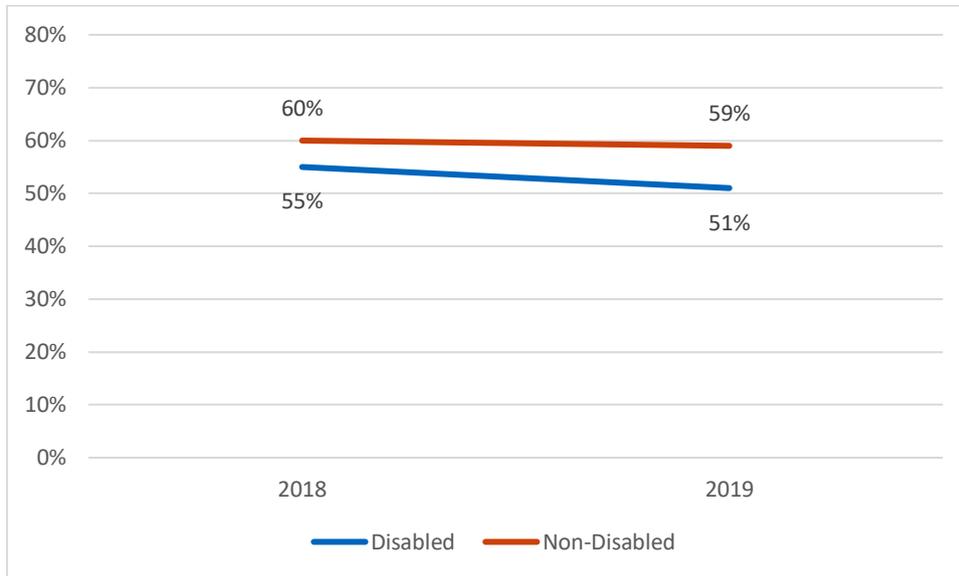
### **Places to Interact (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

Figure 3, below, demonstrates that in 2018-19 disabled people were significantly less likely than non-disabled people to agree or strongly agree that there were places people can meet up and socialise in. In 2018, 55% of disabled people agreed that there are places to socialise compared to 60% of non-disabled people. By 2019 the percentage for disabled people had dropped slightly to just over half (51%) compared to three fifths (59%) of non-disabled people.

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<sup>22</sup> [Scottish household survey 2018: annual report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2018-annual-report/pages/100/)

**Figure 3: % of respondents who agree or strongly agree that there are places where people can meet up and socialise 2018-19, by disability**



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2018-19

### **Additional Indicators**

#### **Hate Crimes (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

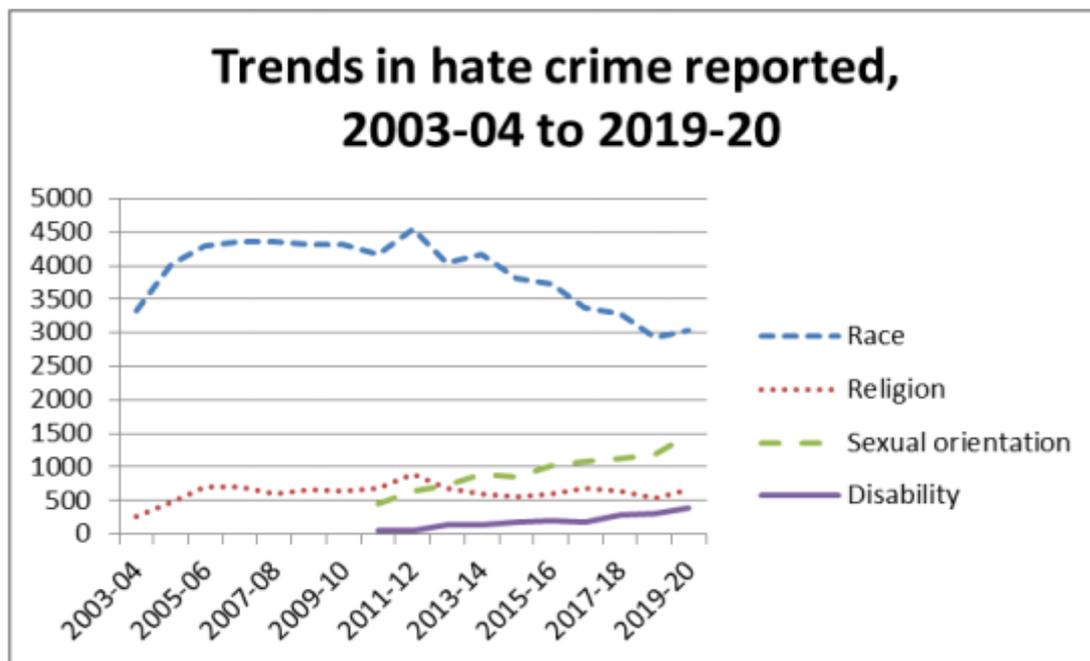
As is demonstrated in figure 4, below, in the latest year (2019-20), 387 charges were reported with an aggravation of prejudice relating to disability, almost a third (29%) more than in 2018-19. This is the highest number of charges reported since the legislation creating this aggravation came into force in 2010. The number of charges reported has increased year on year since the legislation was introduced, with the exception of a small fall in 2016-17.<sup>23</sup>

By comparison, however, racial crime was the most reported hate crime reported from 2003-04 to 2019-20, with a total of 3,038 charges relating to race crime reported in 2019-20. Sexual orientation aggravated crime

<sup>23</sup> [Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20.pdf \(copfs.gov.uk\)](#)

was the second most commonly reported type of hate crime, with 1,486 charges reported in 2019-20. In addition, there were 660 religiously aggravated charges reported in 2019-20, an increase of 24% compared to 2018-19.<sup>24</sup>

**Figure 4: Trends in hate crime reported 2003-04 to 2019-20, by race, religion, sexual orientation and disability**



Source: [Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20.pdf \(copfs.gov.uk\)](https://copfs.gov.uk/hate-crime-in-scotland-2019-20)

In addition, the SHS demonstrates that in 2019 disabled people (those with a limiting long-term condition) were significantly more likely than non-disabled people (those with non-limiting long-term conditions and those with no conditions) to have experienced discrimination and harassment. Around one in eight (12%) of those with a limiting long-term condition had experienced discrimination, compared to only 6% of those with a non-limiting condition and 6% of those with no conditions. Almost one in ten (9%) of those with a limiting long-term condition had

<sup>24</sup> [Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20.pdf \(copfs.gov.uk\)](https://copfs.gov.uk/hate-crime-in-scotland-2019-20)

experienced harassment, compared to only 4% of those with a non-limiting condition and 5% of those with no conditions.<sup>25</sup>

### **Accessibility of Places (COVID-19 Data)**

Inclusion Scotland ran a short survey (n=164) from Tuesday 10 November 2020 until Tuesday 17 November (during the COVID-19 pandemic) to ask disabled people their views on the A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People plan. Disabled people were asked if they thought the accessibility of places (housing, transport, the environment) had got better, got worse or stayed the same since 2016. Almost half (43%) said the accessibility of places had stayed the same, around a third (31%) said they had got worse, 16% said they had got better and 10% said they were not sure.<sup>26</sup> It's worth noting that the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions were likely to have negatively impacted responses to this survey.

## **3. Culture**

**National Outcome: We are creative and our vibrant and diverse culture are expressed and enjoyed widely**

In total there are four indicators for Culture in the National Performance Framework. One indicator is not an individual measurement, and one indicator is available at the individual level, but is not broken down by disability. Updated data is available for the remaining two indicators:

### **Attendance at Cultural Events (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

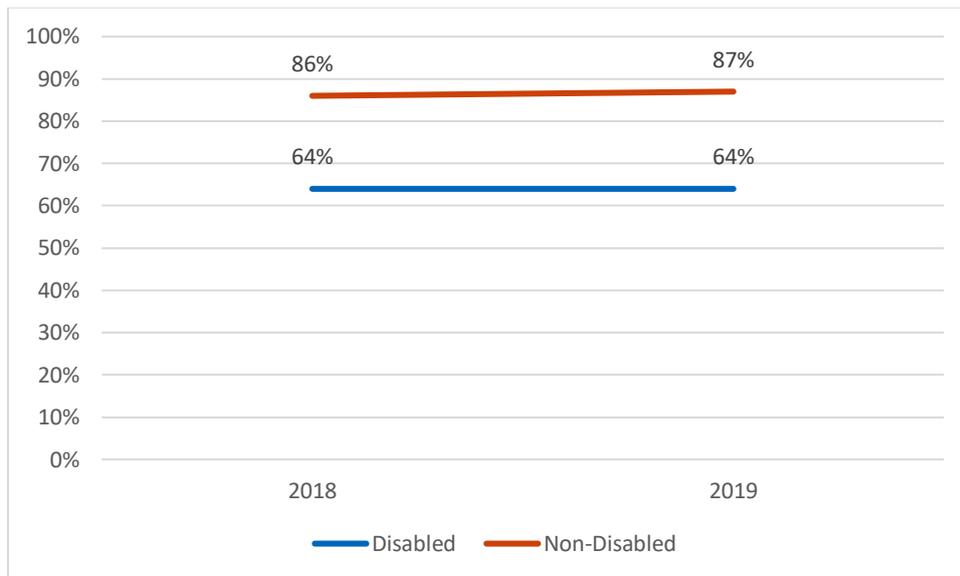
Figure 5, below, demonstrates that disabled people had a significantly lower cultural attendance than non-disabled people in the time period 2018-19. In 2019 just under two thirds (64%) of disabled people had

<sup>25</sup> [SHS Data Explorer \(shinyapps.io\)](#), table 4.29

<sup>26</sup> [Disabled People's Views of the Fairer Scotland For Disabled People Delivery Plan | Inclusion Scotland](#), n=164

attended or visited a cultural event or place in the 12 months compared to 87% of non-disabled people, a gap of 23 percentage points. This provides little change on 2018.

**Figure 5: % of adults who have attended or visited a cultural event or place (Inc. cinema) in the last 12 months, 2018-19, by disability**

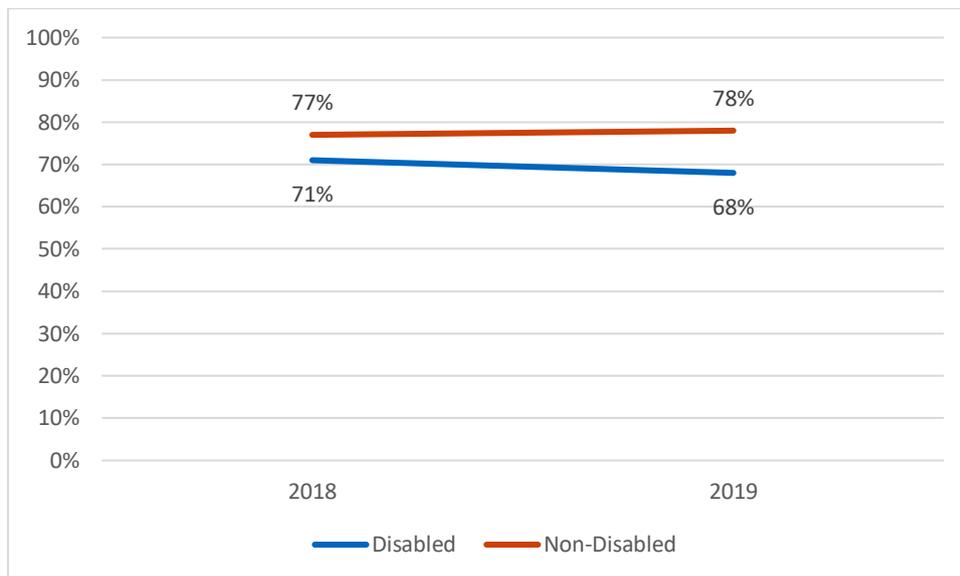


Source: Scottish Household Survey 2018-19

### **Participation in a Cultural Activity (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

Figure 6, below, demonstrates in 2018 and 2019 disabled people were significantly less likely to participate in a cultural activity than non-disabled people. In 2018 under three quarters (71%) of disabled people had participated in a cultural activity in the last 12 months (compared to 77% of non-disabled people). This declined slightly in 2019, when just over two thirds (68%) of disabled people having taken part in a cultural activity in the last 12 months, compared to over three quarters (78%) of non-disabled people (a gap of 10 percentage points).

**Figure 6: % of adults who participated in a cultural activity (Inc. reading) in the last 12 months, 2018-19, by disability**



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2018-19

#### **4. Economy**

**National Outcome: We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy**

There are 10 NPF indicators in the economy domain. However, they are largely not amenable to individual level analysis and therefore cannot be analysed at the level of individual characteristics. One dimension that can be analysed individually is Entrepreneurial Activity, however there is currently limited data on the number of disabled entrepreneurs. Updated data is, however, available for an additional indicator:

#### **Managers and Board Members in Social Enterprises (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

In 2019 there was an under representation of disabled people and people with a long-term health condition on the boards of Social Enterprises. Just over one in ten (11%) of trustees/board members were

disabled or had a long-term health condition.<sup>27</sup> Only 16% of CEOs or equivalent were disabled or had a long-term health condition, and only 55% of social enterprises employed someone who was disabled or who had a long-term health condition.<sup>28</sup>

## **5. Education**

**National Outcome: We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society**

There are nine indicators for Education in the National Performance Framework. At present four indicators do not have defined measurements, and two are not individual level measurements. Updated data is available for the remaining three indicators:

### **Work Place Learning (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

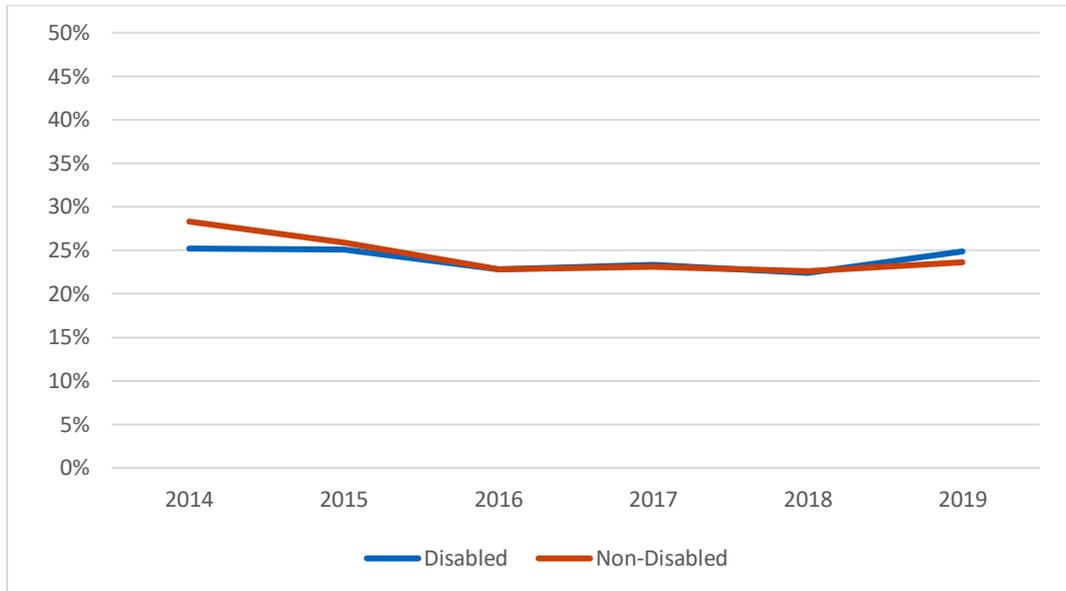
Figure 7, below, demonstrates that in 2014 there was a statistically significant difference in the proportion of disabled and non-disabled people in employment receiving job-related training (25% of disabled people vs 28% of non-disabled people). From 2015-19 there was no difference in the proportion of disabled and non-disabled people in employment receiving job-related training.

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<sup>27</sup> [2019-report.pdf \(socialenterprisecensus.org.uk\)](#), p. 35

<sup>28</sup> [2019-report.pdf \(socialenterprisecensus.org.uk\)](#), p. 36, 40

**Figure 7: % of people in employment who received job-related training in the last 3 months, 2014-2019, by disability**

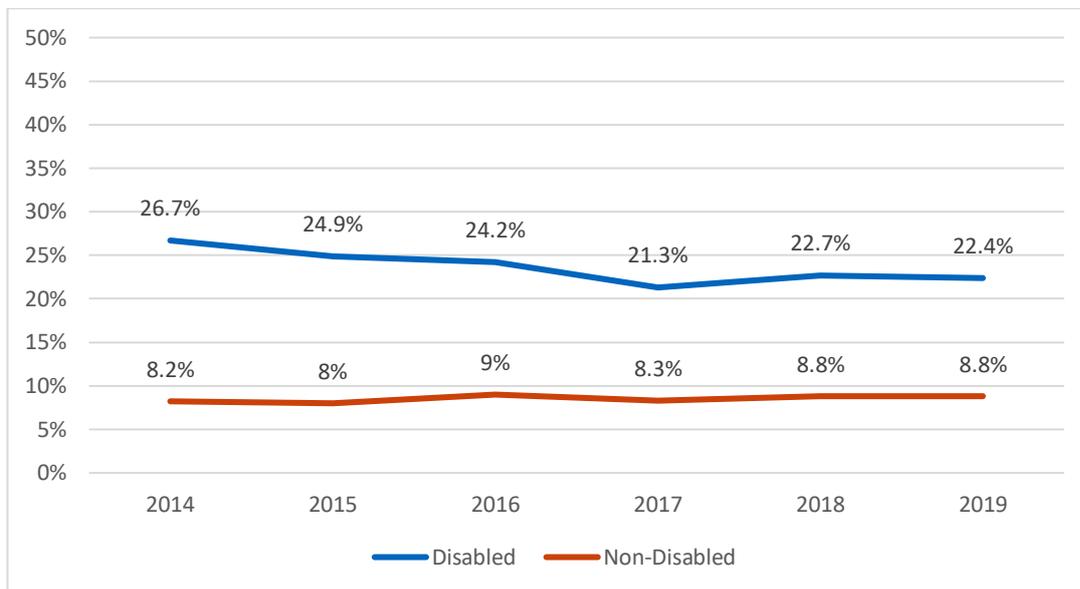


Source: Annual Population Survey, 2014-2019, ONS

### **Skill Profile of the Population (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

Figure 8, below, demonstrates the proportion of disabled people with low or no qualifications decreased between 2014 and 2019. In 2019, 22.4% of disabled people had low or no qualifications, a significant reduction of 4 percentage points since 2014 when 26.7% of disabled people were in this situation. However, the proportion of non-disabled people with low or no qualifications was significantly lower than the proportion for disabled people across all time points.

**Figure 8: Proportion of adults aged 16-64 with low or no qualifications at SCQF level 4 or below, 2014-2019, by disability**



Source: Annual Population Survey, 2014-2019, ONS

### **Young People’s Participation (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

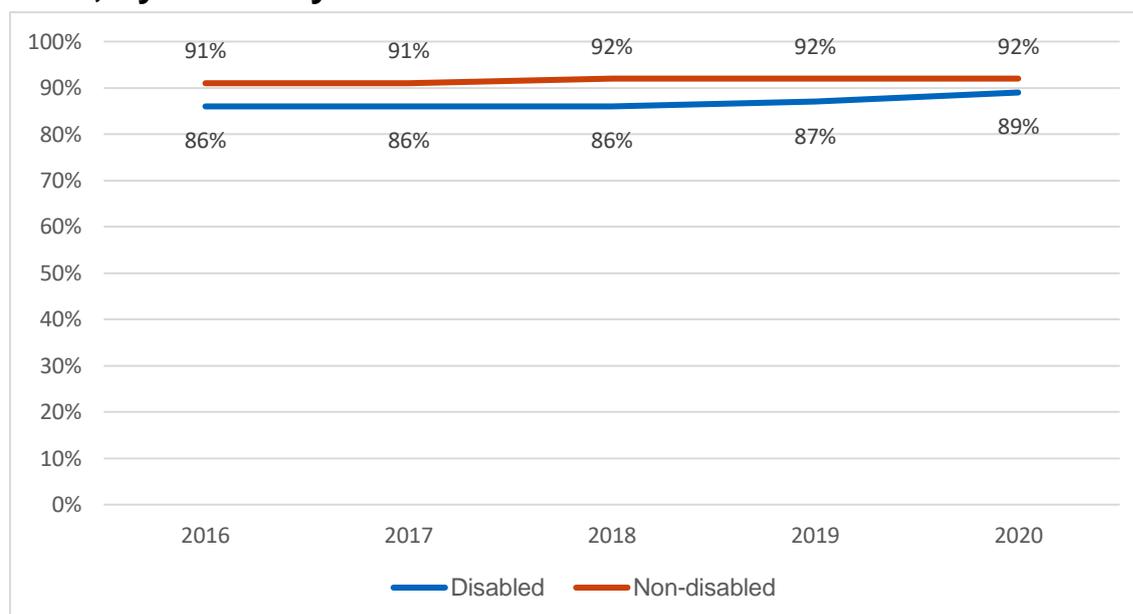
This indicator measures the number of people aged 16-19 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). This is calculated using the Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 year olds, published by Skills Development Scotland (SDS).<sup>29</sup> In 2020, just under nine in ten (89%) of disabled young people were in education, employment and training, compared to just over nine in ten (92%) of non-disabled young people. Figure 9, below, demonstrates that there has been little change in participation rates amongst disabled and non-disabled young people in the period 2016-2020.<sup>30,31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> [2020 Annual Participation Measure 25th August 2020](https://skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk) (skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk)

<sup>30</sup> [Microsoft Word - 2018\\_Annual Participation Measure Report revised\\_20181127\\_finaldraft\\_2081116](#) (skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk), p. 18

<sup>31</sup> [2020 Annual Participation Measure 25th August 2020](https://skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk) (skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk), p. 14

**Figure 9: Participation in education, employment and training 2016-2020, by disability**



Sources: Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 year olds in Scotland 2018 and 2020

## Additional Indicators

### School leaver destinations (Pre COVID-19 Data)

When the outcomes for school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools are measured, 93% of those assessed as or declared disabled school leavers in 2018/19 went on to positive destinations, including work, training or further study. This is lower than the 95% of non-disabled school leavers.<sup>32</sup>

The percentage of non-disabled students leaving for higher education<sup>33</sup> was double the number of disabled students (41% compared to 20%).

<sup>32</sup> [Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations, No. 2: 2020 Edition - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Summary-Statistics-for-Attainment-and-Initial-Leaver-Destinations-No-2-2020-Edition)

<sup>33</sup> Higher Education: includes leavers following HND (Higher National Diploma) or HNC (Higher National Certificate) courses, degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers and higher level courses for professional qualifications. It includes programmes at a level higher than the standard of the National Qualifications, i.e. above SCQF Level 7. Leavers with a deferred, unconditional place in higher education have also been included in this category. Further Education: includes leavers undertaking full-time education which is not higher education and who are no longer on a school roll. This may include National Qualifications. See [Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations, No. 2: 2020 Edition - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Summary-Statistics-for-Attainment-and-Initial-Leaver-Destinations-No-2-2020-Edition)

However, the proportion of those leaving for further education was substantially higher among disabled people relative to non-disabled people (46% compared to 27%).<sup>34</sup>

For the whole of the UK, the overall number of disabled students has increased year on year. The main reason for this increase is students identified as having a mental health condition. Of students with a 'known disability' in 2018/19 the category of 'specific learning difficulty' was the largest group, accounting for over a third (36%) of the total.<sup>35</sup>

At Scottish Higher Education providers, participation in Higher Education by disabled people increased from 2014/15 to 2018/19 (see figure 10). In 2014/15 there were 23,330 disabled students enrolled in Scottish Higher Education providers, and this number had risen to 33,595 by 2018/19.<sup>36</sup> The overall percentage of disabled students in the student body increased from 10% in 2014/15 to 13% in 2018/19.

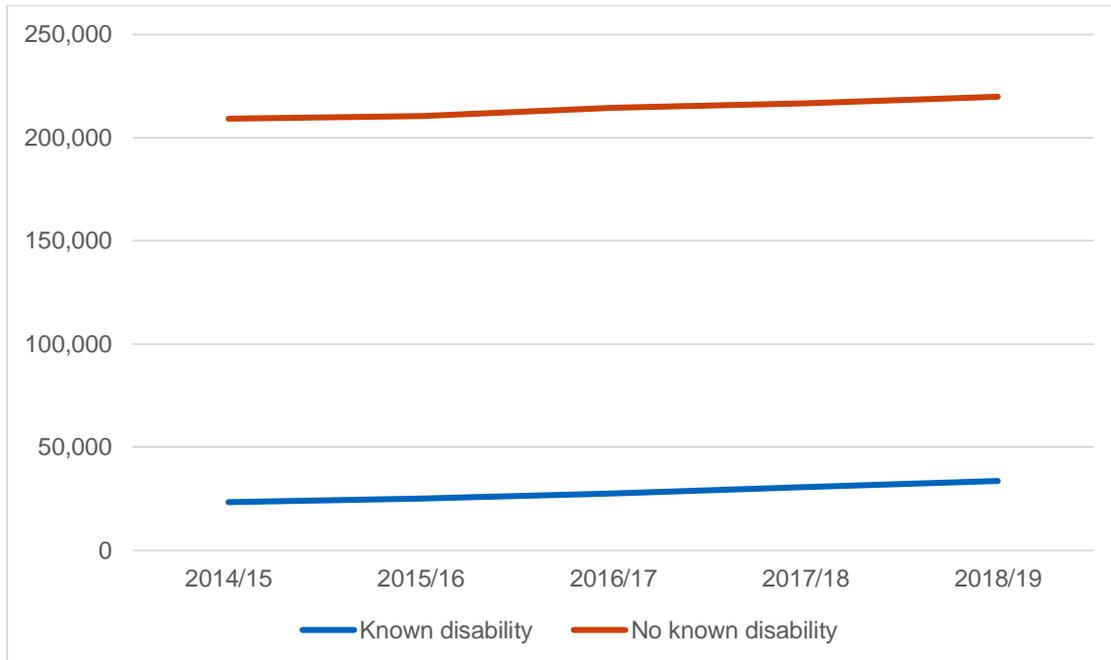
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<sup>34</sup> [Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations, No. 2: 2020 Edition - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-for-attainment-and-initial-leaver-destinations-no-2-2020-edition/pages/100.aspx)

<sup>35</sup> [Higher Education Student Statistics: UK, 2018/19 - Student numbers and characteristics | HESA](https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/higher-education-student-statistics-uk-2018-19)

<sup>36</sup> [Higher Education Student Statistics: UK, 2018/19 - Student numbers and characteristics | HESA](https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/higher-education-student-statistics-uk-2018-19)

**Figure 10: Scottish Higher Education enrolments 2014/15 – 2018/2019, by disability**



Source: Higher Education Student Statistics: UK, 2018/19 - Student numbers and characteristics

## 6. Environment

**National Outcome: We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment**

In total there are eight environmental indicators in the National Performance Framework, however seven of these do not measure individuals. Updated data is available for one indicator:

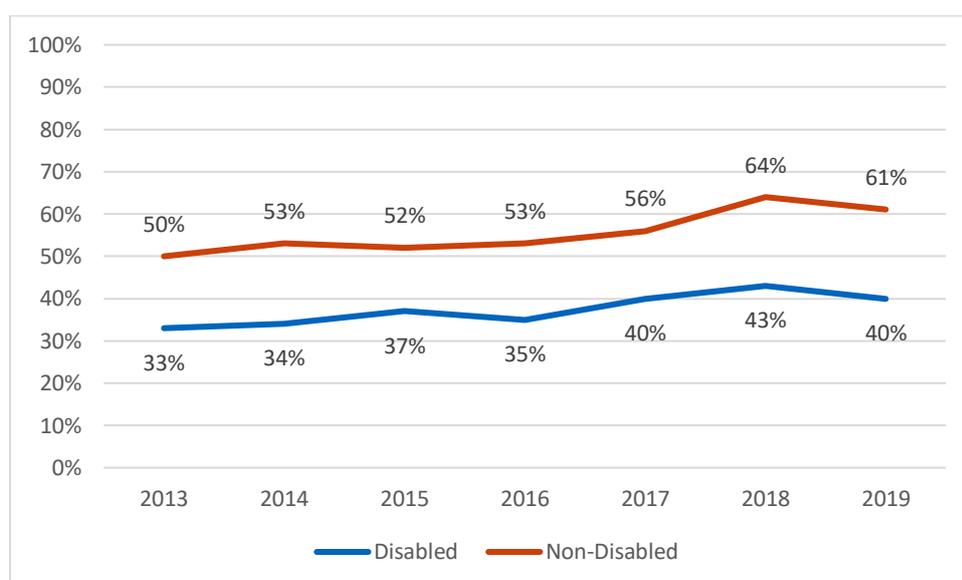
### **Visits to the Outdoors (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

Figure 11, below, demonstrates that a significantly higher proportion of non-disabled than disabled people made one or more visits to the outdoors per week in the period 2013-19. In 2019, two fifths (40%) of disabled people made one or more visits to the outdoors per week,

compared to just under two thirds of non-disabled people (61%).<sup>37</sup>

Numbers of disabled people visiting the outdoors one or more times a week has increased since 2013, from one third (33%) in 2013 to a high of 43% in 2018, before declining significantly to 40% in 2019.

**Figure 11: Proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week 2013-19, by disability**



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2013-19

## 7. Fair Work and Business

**National Outcome: We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone**

There is no updated data available for the National Performance Framework indicators in this category: four indicators do not measure individuals; two indicators are specifically concerned with gender, and one indicator is not broken down by disability. One indicator - Employee Voice - does provide break downs by disability, but there is no

<sup>37</sup> Scottish Household Survey, NPF Data Explorer <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-equality-evidence-finder/>

updated data available for this indicator. There is, however, updated data available for an additional indicator in this category:

### **Disability Pay Gap (COVID-19 Data)**

Analysis of the Labour Force Survey by Trades Union Congress (TUC)<sup>38</sup> has demonstrated that the disability pay gap in the UK widened between 2019 and 2020. In 2019, non-disabled workers earned £1.65 (15.5 per cent) more per hour than disabled workers. In 2020, this had increased to £2.10 (19.6 per cent). This means that a disabled worker working 35 hours per week would, on average, earn £3,822 per year less than a non-disabled worker. In 2019 this calculation found a disabled worker would, on average, earn £3,000 per year less than a non-disabled worker.<sup>39</sup>

A comparison of the median hourly earnings of disabled men and women and non-disabled men and women shows all three other groups were substantially worse off compared to non-disabled men. However, disabled women faced the largest pay gap. The pay gap for disabled women is nearly nine percentage points higher than the pay gap for women overall. Both groups of women were paid less than disabled and non-disabled men, with non-disabled men being paid 36% more than disabled women.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> [Disabled workers note.pdf \(tuc.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Disabled workers note.pdf \(tuc.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Disabled workers note.pdf \(tuc.org.uk\)](#)

**Figure 12: Median hourly earnings and pay gap, by sex and disability**

	<b>Median hourly pay (£)</b>	<b>Pay gap (£) (compared to non-disabled men)</b>	<b>Pay gap (%)</b>
Non-disabled men	13.88	-	-
Disabled men	11.80	2.08	17.6
Non-disabled women	11.73	2.15	18.3
Disabled women	10.20	3.68	36.0

Source: TUC analysis of Labour Force Survey 2020

### **Employment (COVID-19 Data)**

Inclusion Scotland ran a short survey (n=164) from Tuesday 10 November 2020 until Tuesday 17 November (during the COVID-19 pandemic) to ask disabled people their views on the ‘A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People’ plan. Disabled people were asked if they thought employment opportunities and working conditions for disabled people had got better, got worse or stayed the same since 2016. Almost half (44%) said employment opportunities and working conditions had got worse, around a quarter (25%) said they had stayed the same, 7% said they had got better and 24% said they were not sure.<sup>41</sup> This survey was

<sup>41</sup> [Disabled People’s Views of the Fairer Scotland For Disabled People Delivery Plan | Inclusion Scotland](#), n=164

carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this context is likely to have affected the results reported here.

## **8. Health**

### **National Outcome: We are healthy and active**

There are nine indicators measuring health in the National Performance Framework. At present, one indicator is in development, one indicator considers the number of years are likely to be in 'good health', which makes it unhelpful to distinguish rates between those with and without a limiting longstanding condition. In addition, a further two indicators are not broken down in terms of disability status. Updated data is available for the remaining five indicators:

#### **Mental Wellbeing (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

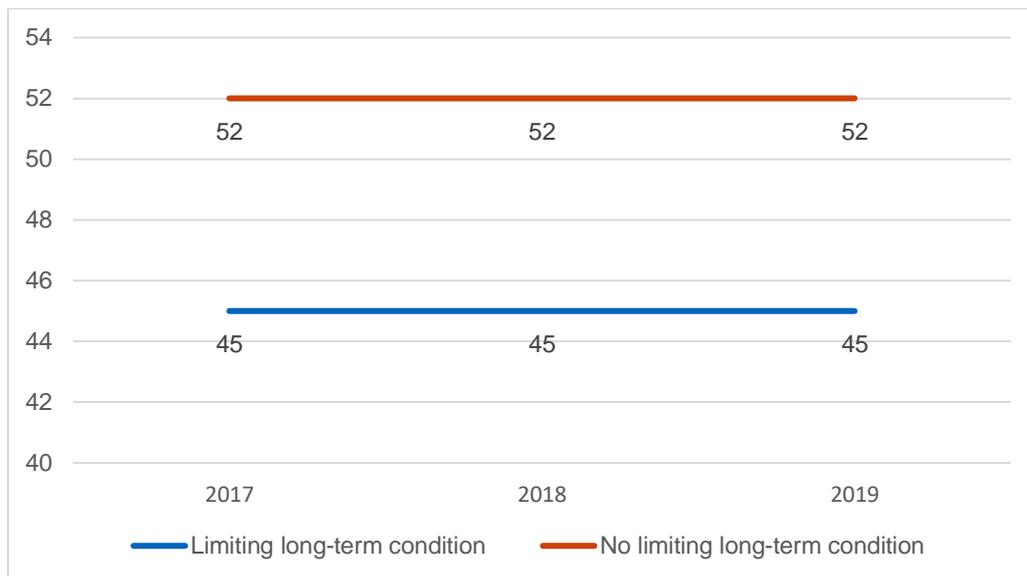
The Scottish Health Survey measures wellbeing using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) questionnaire. The scores range from 14 to 70, with a higher score indicating better mental wellbeing. In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, adults with a limiting long-term condition had a significantly lower average score than those adults without a long-term condition (45 compared to 52).<sup>42</sup>

Figure 13, below, demonstrates that there has been no change in average mental wellbeing scores for adults with a limiting long-term condition in the period 2017-19, with scores for adults without a limiting long-term condition remaining consistently higher than those for adults with a limiting long-term condition.

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<sup>42</sup> [Scottish Health Survey 2019: supplementary tables - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2020/04/Scottish-Health-Survey-2019-supplementary-tables.pdf)

**Figure 13: Average score on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale 2017-19, by limiting long-term condition**



Source: Scottish Health Survey, 2017-2019

Taking the above data into account, it is likely that disabled people have experienced increased mental health issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) indicated that in September 2020 disabled people reported more frequently than non-disabled people that the coronavirus pandemic was affecting their wellbeing because it makes their mental health worse (41% for disabled people and 20% for non-disabled people), they are feeling lonely (45% and 32%), they spend too much time alone (40% and 29%), they feel like a burden on others (24% and 8%), or they have no-one to talk to about their worries (24% and 12%).<sup>43</sup>

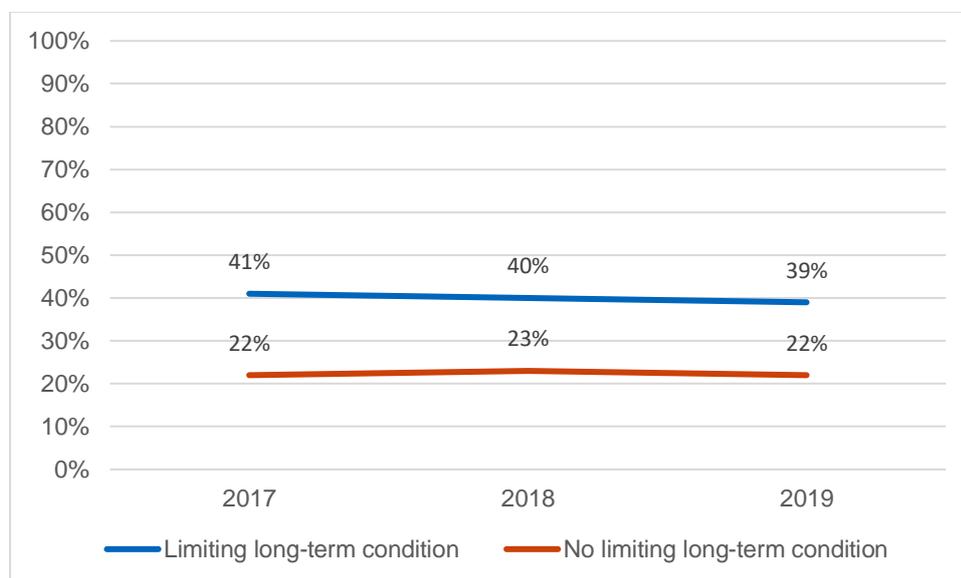
<sup>43</sup> [Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandcare/articles/coronavirus-and-the-social-impacts-on-disabled-people-in-great-britain-2020)

## Health Risk Behaviours (Pre COVID-19 Data)

Health risk behaviours are defined as being a current smoker, engaging in harmful drinking, engaging in a low level of physical activity or obesity.

Figure 14, below, demonstrates that in the period 2017 -2019 adults with a limiting long-term condition were significantly more likely to engage in two or more health risk behaviours than adults without a limiting long-term condition.

**Figure 14: % of population engaging in two or more health risk behaviours, 2017-2019, by limiting long-term condition**



Source: Scottish Health Survey 2017-2019

## Physical Activity (Pre COVID-19 Data)

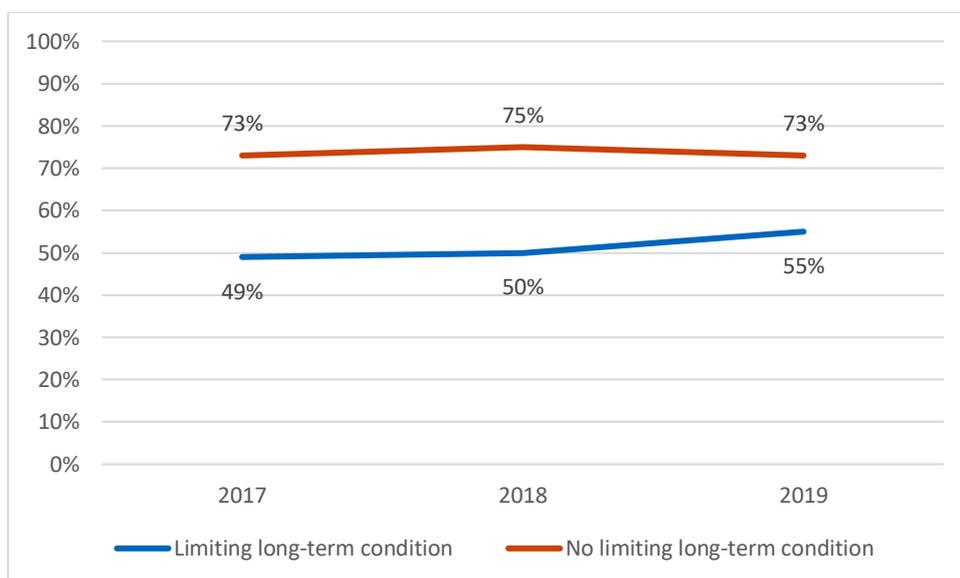
The SHeS shows that in the period 2017-2019 adults with a limiting long-term condition were consistently less likely than adults without a limiting long-term condition to meet physical activity recommendations.<sup>44</sup>

In 2019, significantly fewer adults with a limiting long-term condition met physical activity recommendation, compared to adults without limiting

<sup>44</sup> At least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity, 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity, or an equivalent combination of the two per week

long-term conditions. Just over half (55%) of adults with a limiting long-term condition met physical activity recommendations, compared to almost three quarters (73%) of non-disabled people.<sup>45</sup> However, Figure 15, below, demonstrates that between 2017 and 2019 the percentage of adults with a limiting long-term condition meeting physical activity guidelines rose from 49% to 55% - a statistically significant change.

**Figure 15: % of population meeting physical activity recommendations 2017-2019, by limiting long-term condition**



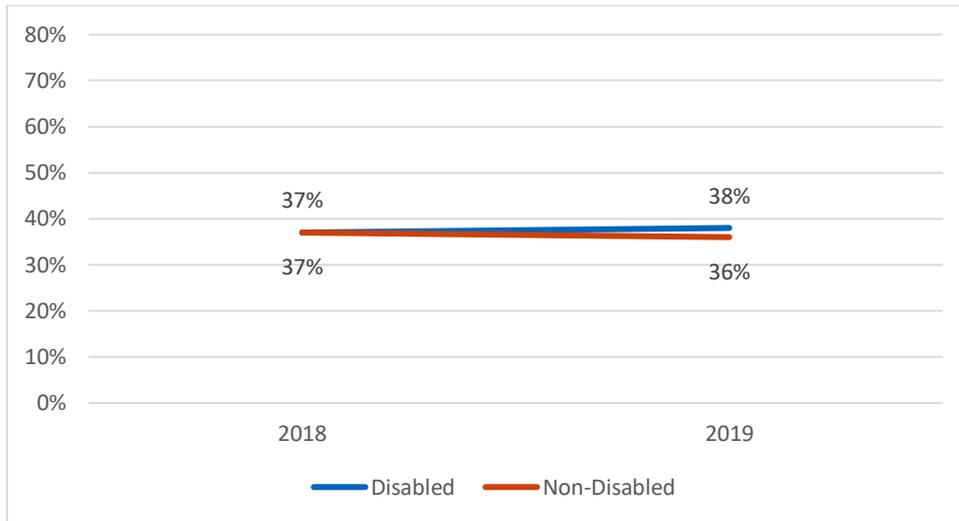
Source: Scottish Health Survey, 2017-2019

### **Journeys by Active Travel (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

Figure 16, below, demonstrates that there was no significant difference between the percentage of disabled and non-disabled people who usually travelled to work by public or active transport across 2018-19. In 2019, almost two fifths (38%) of disabled people usually travelled to work by public or active transport, compared to 36% of non-disabled people.

<sup>45</sup> [Scottish Health Survey 2019: supplementary tables - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

**Figure 16: % of adults usually travelling to work by public or active transport, 2018-19, by disability**



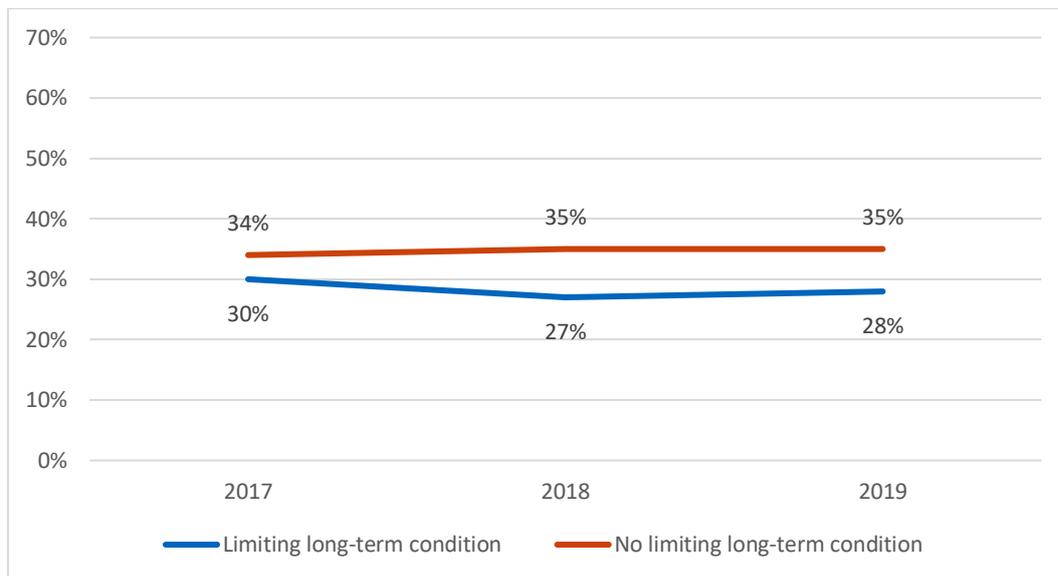
Source: Scottish Household Survey 2018-19

### **Healthy Weight (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

This indicator measures the percentage of adults, i.e. those over 16, who are a healthy weight. Healthy weight in this context refers to having a BMI of 18.5 to less than 25. Statistics on BMIs in the population are available from the SHeS for both children and adults.

Figure 17, below, shows that in 2017 there was little difference in the percentage of people with a healthy weight when considering adults with limiting long-term conditions, and adults without a limiting long-term condition. However, by 2019 there was a statistically significant difference between those with and without limiting long-term conditions. In 2019, 28% of adults with a limiting long-term condition were a healthy weight, compared to 35% of adults without a limiting long-term condition.

**Figure 17: % of population with BMI of 18.5 to less than 25 2017-2019, by limiting long-term condition**



Source: Scottish Health Survey, 2017-2019

## **Additional Indicators**

### **Premature Mortality (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

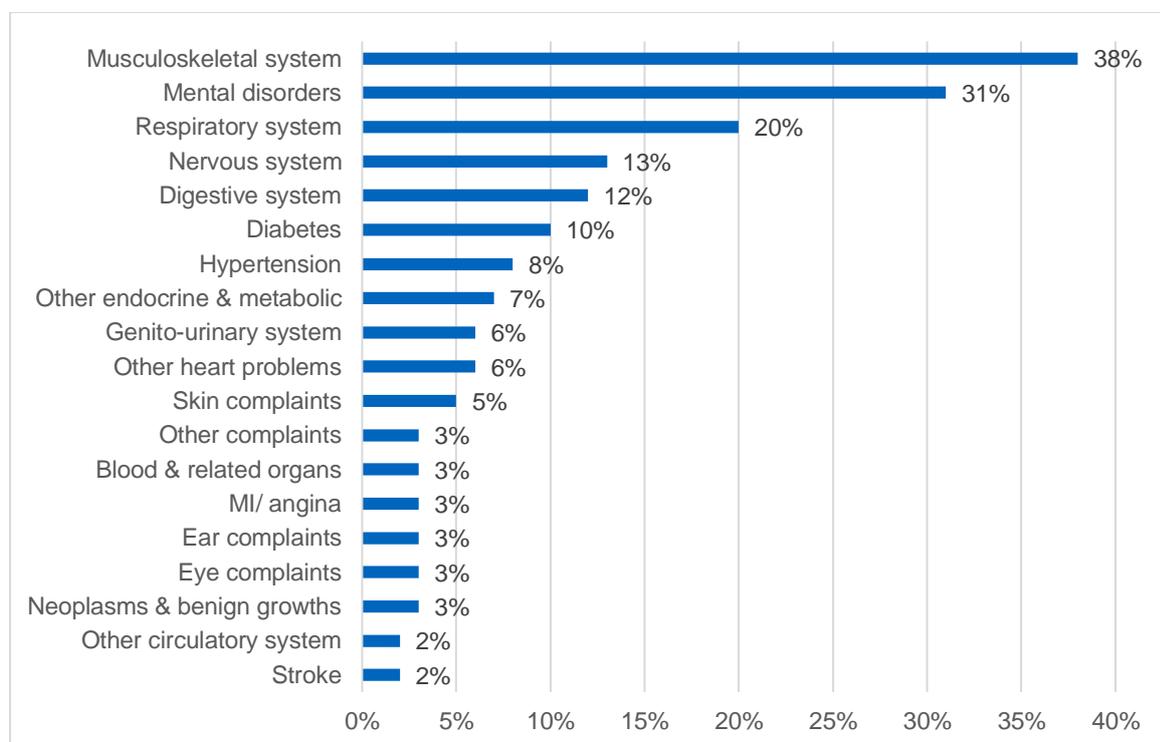
Statistics concerned with premature mortality are not broken down in relation to disability. The 2018 Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) found the median age at death was 60 for men and 59 for women, for those (aged 4 and over) who died April 2017 to December 2018. This is significantly less than the median age of death of 83 for men and 86 for women in the general population. This means the difference in median age of death between people with a learning disability (aged 4 and over) and the general population was 23 years for men and 27 years for women.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>46</sup> University of Bristol Norah Fry Centre for Disability Studies, 2019, [Learning Disability - Health Inequalities Research | Mencap](#)

## Vulnerability to COVID-19

Disabled adults have a range of limiting long-term physical health conditions, such as those affecting the heart and respiratory system, which are linked to increased vulnerability to COVID-19. Figure 18, below, demonstrates the most common limiting long-term conditions among disabled adults as recorded in the 2019 Scottish Health Survey.

**Figure 18: Prevalence of limiting long-term conditions among disabled adults**



Source: Scottish Health Survey 2019

Deaths involving COVID in Scotland (monthly analysis)<sup>47</sup> shows that as of 17<sup>th</sup> January of the 6,834 deaths involving COVID-19 between March and December 2020, over nine in ten (93%, or 6,372) had at least one pre-existing condition.

<sup>47</sup> [Deaths involving coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland, Week 2: Report \(nrsotland.gov.uk\)](https://nrsotland.gov.uk)

Around 170,000 adults in Scotland have been defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable due to having an existing health condition that puts them at very high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.<sup>48</sup> An additional group of people are required to follow enhanced social distancing, because pre-existing health conditions or circumstances mean they are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.<sup>49</sup> A large proportion of disabled people will fall into these groups.

It is also possible that disabled people may be at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 due to barriers experienced in enacting preventative measures. Briefing by the World Health Organisation (WHO)<sup>50</sup> states that disabled people may face greater challenges implementing regular handwashing and social distancing measures because of additional support needs. There may also be a requirement for some disabled people to use touch to obtain information from the environment or physical support, increasing the likelihood of virus transmission.

### **Disruption to Health and Social Care (COVID-19 Data)**

The Coronavirus Act 2020 allowed local authorities to dispense with particular assessment duties in relation to adult social care, carer support and children's services where 'complying would not be practical or would cause unnecessary delay in providing support to any person'.<sup>51</sup> This was intended to allow councils to prioritise care for those most at risk in the event of services becoming overwhelmed by increased demand or staff absences. Many disabled people in particular have

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<sup>48</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-framework-decision-making-supporting-evidence/pages/4/>

<sup>49</sup> [GOV.UK Guidance on protecting older people and vulnerable adults](#)

<sup>50</sup> [Disability considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak \(who.int\)](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Covid+and+Inequalities+Final+Report+For+Publication+-+PDF.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

faced disruptions to social care arrangements due to care staff being redeployed to work on COVID-19, reported lack of personal protective equipment for carers, and family members being unable to provide unpaid care due to themselves being ill or isolating.<sup>52</sup>

The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) published Office for National Statistics (ONS) indicated that in September 2020 around half of (50%) disabled people who were receiving medical care before the coronavirus pandemic began, were either currently receiving treatment for only some of their conditions (29%), or that their treatment had been cancelled or not started (22%). Less than 3 in 10 (27%) of non-disabled people who had a physical or mental health condition or illness and were receiving care before the pandemic reported receiving a reduced level of treatment or had their treatment cancelled.<sup>53</sup>

Just under half (45%) of those disabled people who had reported receiving a reduced level of treatment or had their treatment cancelled in September 2020 reported that they felt their health had worsened in this time; in July 2020 this proportion was one-quarter (25%).<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> [Covid+and+Inequalities+Final+Report+For+Publication+-+PDF.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/0045.pdf)

<sup>53</sup> [Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/disabledpeopleandolderpeople/articles/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain)

<sup>54</sup> [Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/disabledpeopleandolderpeople/articles/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain)

## 9. Human Rights

**National Outcome: We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination**

The National Performance Framework has four indicators for human rights, one of which does not have an indicator at present, and three of which have updated data available:

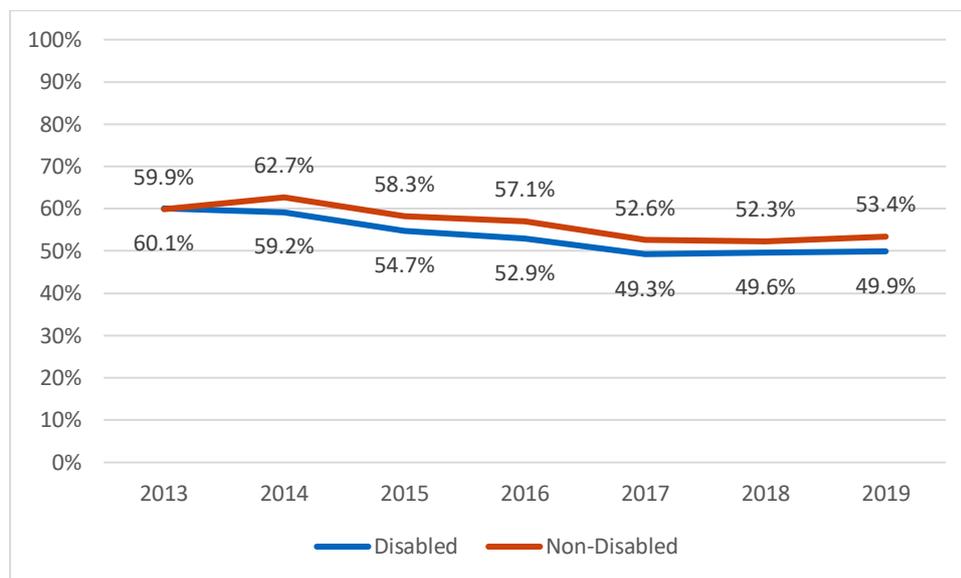
### **Quality of Public Services (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

The SHS asks respondents if they are satisfied with their local services. Figure 19, below, demonstrates in the period 2013-2019 disabled people were slightly less likely than non-disabled people to be very or fairly satisfied with their local services.<sup>55</sup> This gap in satisfaction was at its widest in 2016, when significantly fewer disabled people were satisfied with their local services than non-disabled people (52.9% of disabled people vs 57.1% of non-disabled people). In 2019 this difference in satisfaction was also significant, when 49.9% of disabled people felt satisfied with their local services, compared to 53.4% of non-disabled people.

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<sup>55</sup> Scottish Household Survey NPF Data Explorer <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-equality-evidence-finder/>

**Figure 19: % of respondents who are very or fairly satisfied with local services 2013-19, by disability**



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2013-19

### **Influence over Local Decisions (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

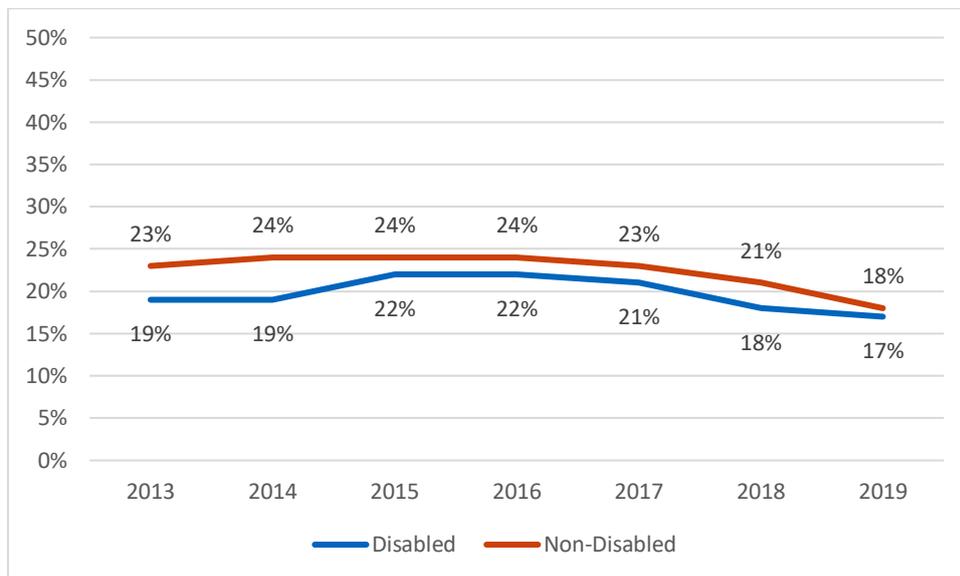
Figure 20, below, demonstrates in the period 2013 to 2019 disabled people were slightly less likely than non-disabled people to agree with the statement ‘I can influence decisions affecting my local area’. The gap in opinion, however, has narrowed over time. In 2013 just under one fifth (19%) of disabled people agreed with the statement, compared to just under one quarter (23%) of non-disabled people. By 2019, there was a difference of one percentage point between disabled (17%), and non-disabled people (18%), this difference is not statistically significant.<sup>56</sup>

In 2017, 21% of disabled people agreed with the statement “I can influence decisions affecting my local area”, but by 2019 this had reduced significantly to 17%.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Scottish Household Survey NPF Data Explorer <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-equality-evidence-finder/>

<sup>57</sup> In order to improve comparability, for the 2020 update the NPF SHS indicator disability disaggregation was revised to be based on the same criteria as the harmonised questions from the Scottish Survey Core Questions.

**Figure 20: % of people who agree with the statement ‘I can influence decisions affecting my local area’ 2013-19, by disability**



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2013-19

### **Access to Justice (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

The SCJS demonstrates that in 2018/19 slightly fewer disabled adults were confident that everyone has access to justice system when they needed it than non-disabled adults. In 2018/19 just under three quarters (73%) of disabled people were confident that everyone had access to the justice system when they needed it, compared to just over three quarters (77%) of non-disabled people. Almost a fifth (19%) of disabled people were not confident that everyone had access to the justice system when they needed it, compared to 15% of non-disabled people.<sup>58</sup>

The SCJS found that the proportion of disabled adults who were confident that everyone has access to the justice system when they need it had increased significantly from 68% in 2017/18 to 73% in 2018/19. The proportion of non-disabled adults who were confident that

<sup>58</sup> [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

everyone has access to the justice system when they need it showed no change over the same time period.

Inclusion Scotland ran a short survey (n=164) from Tuesday 10 November 2020 until Tuesday 17 November (during the COVID-19 pandemic) to ask disabled people their views on the A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People plan. Disabled people were asked if they thought the accessibility and fairness of the justice system had got better, got worse or stayed the same since 2016. 40% of respondents said they were not sure, 29% said it had stayed the same, 24% said it had got worse and 7% said it had got better.<sup>59</sup> It's worth noting that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was likely to have negatively impacted responses to this survey.

## **Additional Indicators**

### **Support Services (COVID-19 Data)**

Inclusion Scotland asked disabled people if they thought support services for disabled people had got better, got worse or stayed the same since 2016. Half (49%) said support services had got worse, around a third (34%) said they had stayed the same, 9% said they had got better and 8% said they were not sure.<sup>60</sup> It's worth noting that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was likely to have negatively impacted responses to this survey.

### **Active Participation (COVID-19 Data)**

Inclusion Scotland asked disabled people if they thought the participation of disabled people in daily and public life had got better, got worse or stayed the same since 2016. Most people said participation of

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<sup>59</sup> [Disabled People's Views of the Fairer Scotland For Disabled People Delivery Plan | Inclusion Scotland](#), n=164

<sup>60</sup> [Disabled People's Views of the Fairer Scotland For Disabled People Delivery Plan | Inclusion Scotland](#), n=164

disabled people in daily and public life had either stayed the same (36%) or got worse (31%), 19% said it had got better and 14% said they were not sure.<sup>61</sup>

## **10. International**

**National Outcome: We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally**

There are six NPF indicators for the international domain, but there is not data available for these indicators at this time. This is because one is not an individual measure, while the further five indicators are currently in development.

## **11. Poverty**

**National Outcome: We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination**

There are seven indicators for poverty in the national performance framework. However, two lack a demographic breakdown that includes disability, whilst another indicator is a broad societal rather than individual measure, so is not useful for our purposes. Updated data on unmanageable debt was not available. Updated data is available for the remaining three indicators:

### **Satisfaction with Housing (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

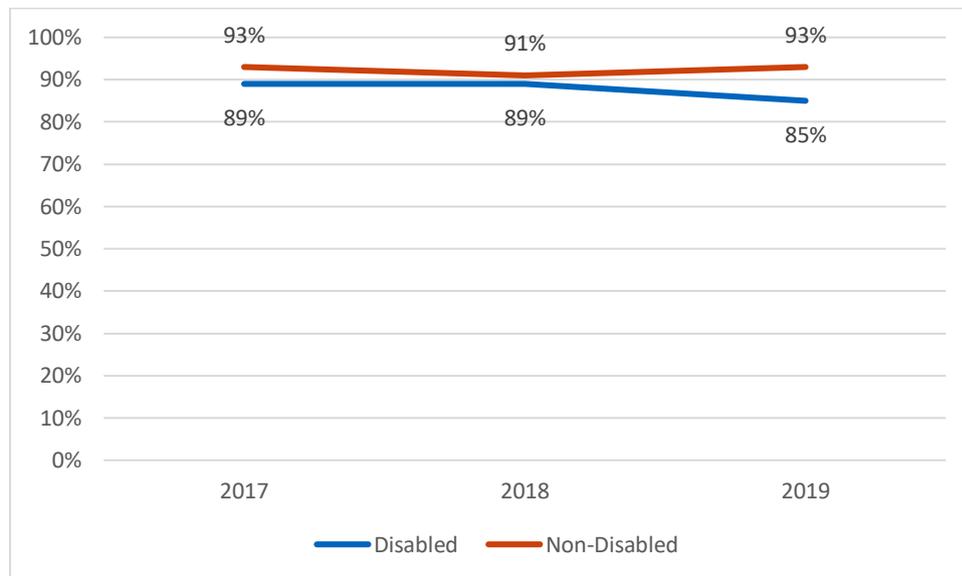
Figure 21, below, demonstrates that there was some difference amongst the population of disabled and non-disabled people who were very/fairly satisfied with their housing in the time period 2017 to 2019. In 2019 significantly fewer disabled people (85%) were very or fairly satisfied with their housing, compared to non-disabled people (93%). In addition,

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<sup>61</sup> [Disabled People's Views of the Fairer Scotland For Disabled People Delivery Plan | Inclusion Scotland](#), n=164

between 2017 and 2019 the proportion of disabled people very or fairly satisfied with their housing declined from 89% in 2017 to 85% in 2019.

**Figure 21: % of population very/fairly satisfied with housing\* 2017-19, by disability of Highest Income Householder**



*\*This is a household response by a random adult response. It is assumed that the household response represents the random adult's view of how satisfied or otherwise they are with their housing. However, it is possible that the random adult and household respondent have differing views on this.*

Source: Scottish Household Survey 2017-19

### **Relative Poverty after Housing Costs (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

According to the FRS, in 2016-19, the relative poverty rates were consistently higher where a household had a disabled member than where they did not. In 2016-19, the poverty rate after housing costs for people in a household with a disabled person was 23% (490,000 people

each year). This compares with 17% (530,000 people) in a household without disabled household members.<sup>62</sup>

The relative poverty measure doesn't take into account the fact that additional living costs may be incurred due to the illness or disability in question. The Scottish Government has made an adjustment to the poverty rates to partly account for additional living costs for those households where someone is in receipt of disability benefits. After excluding Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Payments from total household income, after housing costs the poverty rate in 2016-19 was 29% (620,000 people each year) for people living with a disabled household member, and 16% (500,000 people) for those without.<sup>63</sup>

### **Food Insecurity (Pre COVID-19 Data)**

The SHeS asks respondents if, in the last 12 months, they have ever been worried that they would run out of food because of a lack of money or other resources. If a respondent answers 'yes' to this question they are considered to have experienced food insecurity.

In the period 2017-2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, adults with a limiting long-term condition were consistently more likely to experience food insecurity than adults without a limiting long-term condition.

According to the 2019 SHeS, significantly more adults with a limiting long-term condition had experienced food insecurity when compared to adults without a limiting long-term condition (18% compared to 5%).<sup>64</sup>

Figure 22, below, demonstrates that there has been no change in the

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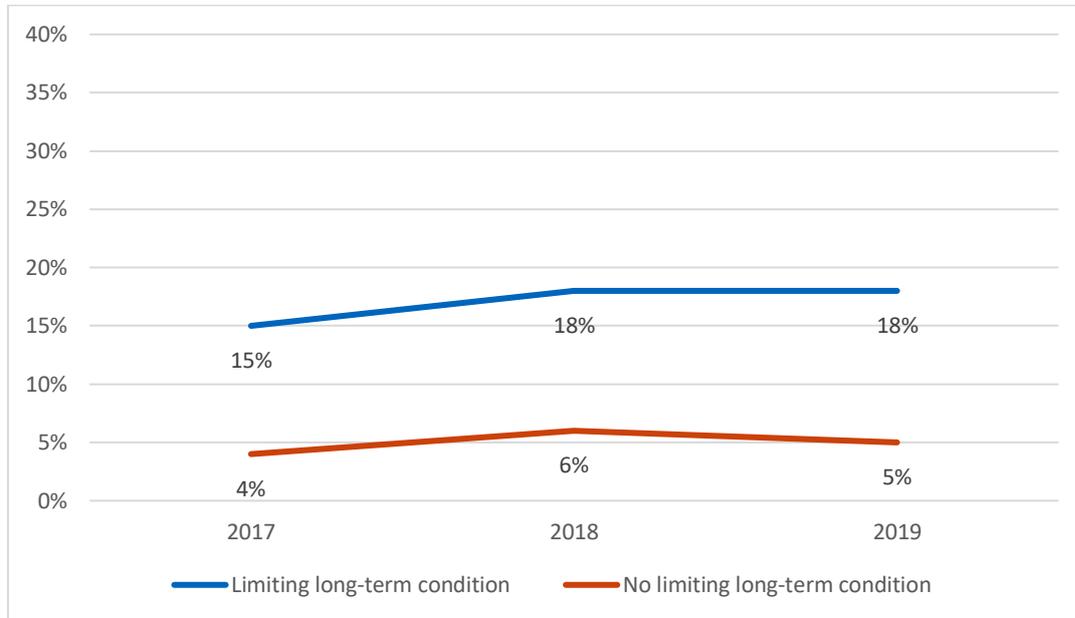
<sup>62</sup> [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2016-19 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2020/04/Poverty_and_Income_Inequality_in_Scotland_2016-19.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2016-19 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2020/04/Poverty_and_Income_Inequality_in_Scotland_2016-19.pdf)

<sup>64</sup> [Scottish Health Survey 2019: supplementary tables - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2020/04/Scottish_Health_Survey_2019_supplementary_tables.pdf)

percentage of adults with a limiting long-term condition experiencing food insecurity in the period 2017-19.

**Figure 22: % of population experiencing food insecurity 2017-2019, by limiting long-term condition**



Source: Scottish Health Survey 2017-2019

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have exacerbated food insecurity for disabled people. A statement by Scope on 19 March 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, reported that many disabled people were worried about panic buying leading to a lack of essential supplies and a scarcity of supermarket home-delivery slots.<sup>65</sup> Data from a YouGov poll commissioned by the Food Foundation<sup>66</sup> shows that disabled adults were disproportionately affected by food insecurity during the first three weeks of lockdown arising due to all three drivers measured - financial hardship, lack of food in shops and isolation.

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.scope.org.uk/media/press-releases/coronavirus-response/>

<sup>66</sup> [https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Report\\_COVID19FoodInsecurity-final.pdf](https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Report_COVID19FoodInsecurity-final.pdf)

Findings from Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA) demonstrated that 47% of their respondents had been worried about their access to food during the pandemic.<sup>67</sup> GDA members had experienced extra barriers to food security from supermarket delivery slots being overwhelmed and having a minimum spend barrier.<sup>68</sup> Members of GDA also expressed concerns about delays and gaps in accessing eligibility status for shielding support and delivery priority slots. Many were expected to rely on the goodwill of friends and family when support lines were withdrawn as shielding was paused.<sup>69</sup>

In addition, over half (53%) of respondents to Inclusion Scotland's April 2020 survey said that they had experienced difficulties accessing food for themselves and those that they care for.<sup>70</sup>

## **Additional Indicator**

### **Persistent Poverty (Pre COVID-19 data)**

In the UK as a whole, analysis from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published in 2020 found that, among working-age adults, disabled people had a higher likelihood of having a persistently low income (i.e. 60% of the median). Before housing costs, 13% of disabled people with a limiting condition in 2014/15 to 2017/18 had a persistently low-income, compared to 8% of those with a non-limiting long-term condition and 6% of those with no long-term conditions. After housing costs, 19% of disabled people (with a limiting condition) were in persistently low income in the same period, compared to 12% of those

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<sup>67</sup> [Supercharged: A Human Catastrophe - Inequalities, Participation and Human Rights, before during and beyond COVID19 - Glasgow Disability Alliance | Glasgow Disability Alliance \(gda.scot\)](#), p. 10, n=5000

<sup>68</sup> [Supercharged: A Human Catastrophe - Inequalities, Participation and Human Rights, before during and beyond COVID19 - Glasgow Disability Alliance | Glasgow Disability Alliance \(gda.scot\)](#), p. 10, n=5000

<sup>69</sup> [Supercharged: A Human Catastrophe - Inequalities, Participation and Human Rights, before during and beyond COVID19 - Glasgow Disability Alliance | Glasgow Disability Alliance \(gda.scot\)](#), p. 10, n=5000

<sup>70</sup> [Rights-At-Risk-Summary-Report-1.pdf \(inclusionScotland.org\)](#), n=822

with non-limiting long-term conditions and 10% of those with no long-term conditions.<sup>71</sup>

### **Debt (COVID-19 Data)**

Research carried out in the UK in April 2020 found that disabled people were more likely to say that they will come out of the coronavirus outbreak in more debt. Findings from Glasgow Disability Alliance's member engagement on COVID-19<sup>72</sup> found that 57% of disabled people had been worried about money and hardship during the pandemic.

In addition, research from the Women's Budget Group found that disabled people were most likely to say that they will come out of the coronavirus outbreak in more debt.<sup>73</sup> Looking at disabled women, 34.2% said that their household had already run out of money, compared to 24.4% of non-disabled women.<sup>74</sup>

## **Conclusion**

This report has provided a picture of life in Scotland for a disabled person across the 11 outcomes of the NPF. The report has explained that data is not available to cover every single indicator, either because that indicator is not applicable at the individual level, because the indicator is still being developed, or because breakdowns by disability are not currently available. Nonetheless, for the outcomes for which we have data, a considerable number of indicators suggest that disabled people continue to face barriers in fully participating in Scottish society.

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<sup>71</sup> [Income Dynamics, 2010 to 2018 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

<sup>72</sup> [Supercharged: A Human Catastrophe - Inequalities, Participation and Human Rights, before and beyond COVID19 - Glasgow Disability Alliance | Glasgow Disability Alliance \(gda.scot\)](#), p. 8, n=5000

<sup>73</sup> [Disabled-Women-and-Covid-19.pdf \(wbg.org.uk\)](#), n=3,280

<sup>74</sup> [Disabled-Women-and-Covid-19.pdf \(wbg.org.uk\)](#), n=3,280

Evidence from the Disabled People's Organisations in Scotland, and survey data from the UK has demonstrated that COVID-19 is likely to be disproportionately impacting disabled people, who are not only likely to be more vulnerable to the virus itself, but also at risk of mental illness and increased debt as a result of the pandemic.

Scottish Government has been drawing on the data and insights we have had access to throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period. This research has supported and influenced the work that Scottish Government has done, enabling the response to the pandemic to be adjusted where possible to minimise harms and difficulties for disabled people whilst still maintaining its key aim of protecting life.

Scottish Government will draw on the wide range of NPF indicator data presented in this report, alongside expert advice and lived experience, to determine what the focus of future work to promote disability equality should be.



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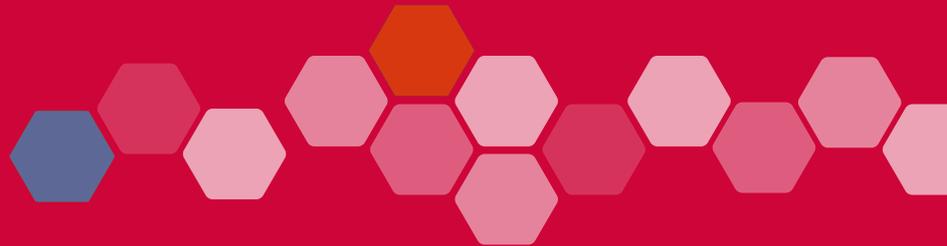
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