

SECTION 3: DISABLED PEOPLE

The more we know about our local population and service users the better we can understand their needs in order to deliver services. Information is collected from a variety of sources and references Darlington where local level data are available, otherwise national or regional information is used.

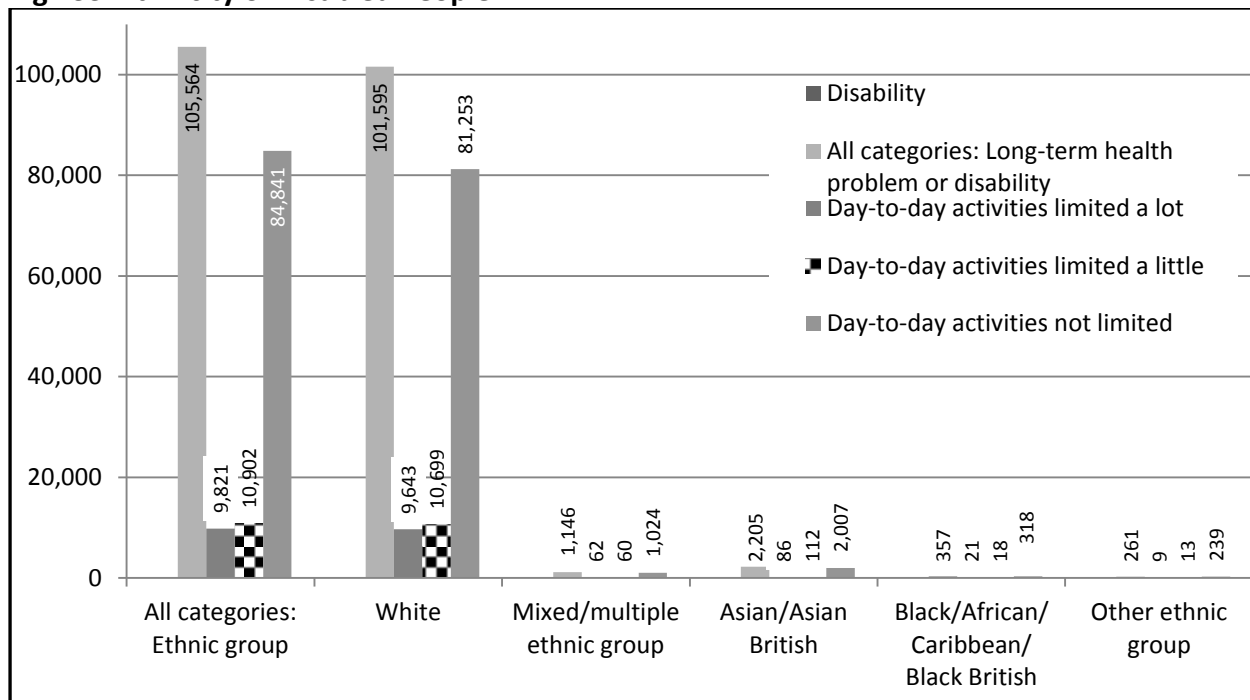
The topics covered in this section include general disability, sensory impairments, physical disabilities and learning disabilities. Autism is covered in a specific section within Vulnerable Groups.

Demographics

The Census information from 2011 shows 19.6% of residents has a limiting long-term illness. This is a reduction from the 20.4% 2001 census but higher than the national average of 17.9% for England and Wales.

There are different measures used within the Office of National Statistics that collects a variety of information about disability and the population. In Darlington 20,723 people have their day to day activities either limited a little or a lot by a long-term health problem which is 20.4% of the eligible population. This figure differs from the census as it relates to a different question about day-to-day activities being limited by a long-term health problem rather than whether someone considers themselves to be a disabled person.

Fig 133: Ethnicity of Disabled People



[Source: ONS]

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. This figure includes people who are registered blind or partially sighted and those whose sight is just better than the level which qualifies for registration. It also includes people who are awaiting or having treatment and people whose vision could be improved by wearing correctly prescribed glasses.

- There are an estimated 3,300 people living with sight loss in Darlington. Of this total, 400 are living with severe sight loss (blindness).
- The estimated prevalence of sight loss in the area is 3.1%, which compares to an estimated UK prevalence of 2.95%.
- By 2020 the number of people living with sight loss in Darlington is projected to have increased to 3,870; and the number of people with severe sight loss will have increased to 480.

[RNIB Sight Loss Data Tool](#) [external link]

Fig 134: Total number of people registered blind or partially sighted by age group:

Age	Number
0-17	20
18-49*	90
50-64	95
65-74**	70
75+	390
Overall Total	670

HEARING IMPAIRMENT

National data about hearing impairment is available through Public Health England but is mainly from 2009-10. The most recent information from 2013-14 relates to Newborn Hearing Screening coverage.

The table below shows Darlington prevalence of hearing loss in the population compared to the North East region and England.

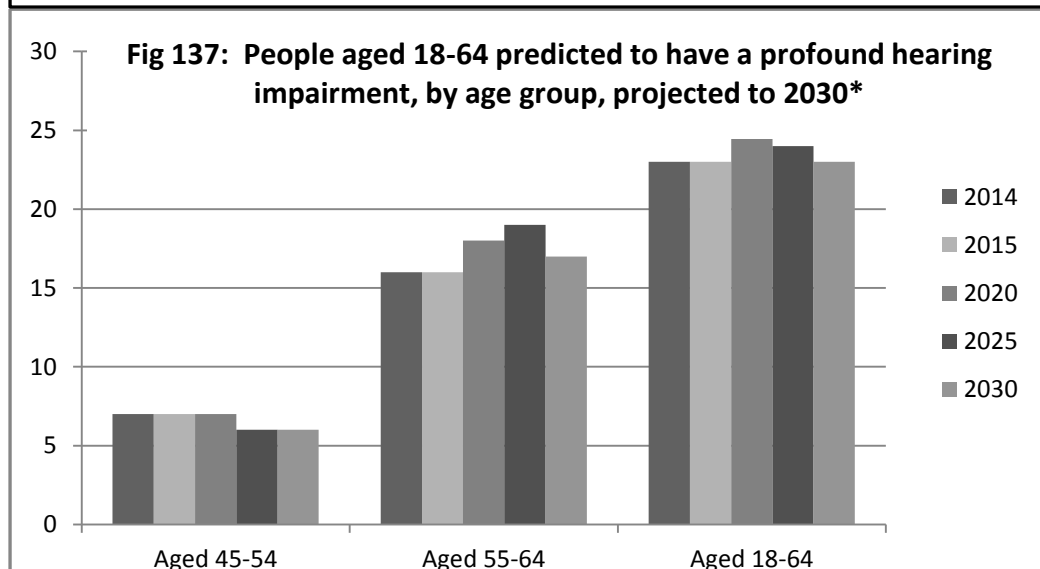
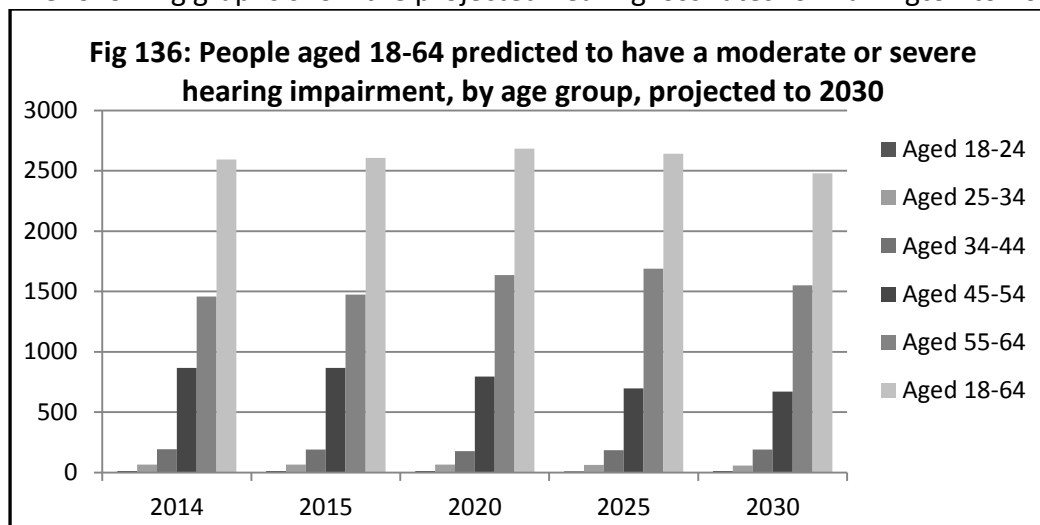
Fig 135: Prevalence of hearing loss in Darlington

Indicator	Period	Darlington		Region		England		England	
		Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst/Lowest	Range	Best/Highest	
People aged 18-64 registered deaf or hard of hearing per 100,000	2009/10	125	204.5	253.4	172.8	0.0		492.4	
People aged 65-74 registered deaf or hard of hearing per 100,000	2009/10	75	829	1,037	620	0		3,518	
People aged 75+ registered deaf or hard of hearing per 100,000	2009/10	280	3,339	4,780	3,089	140		12,183	
2.21v - Newborn Hearing screening - Coverage	2013/14	1,187	99.5%	99.2%	98.5%	92.7%		99.9%	

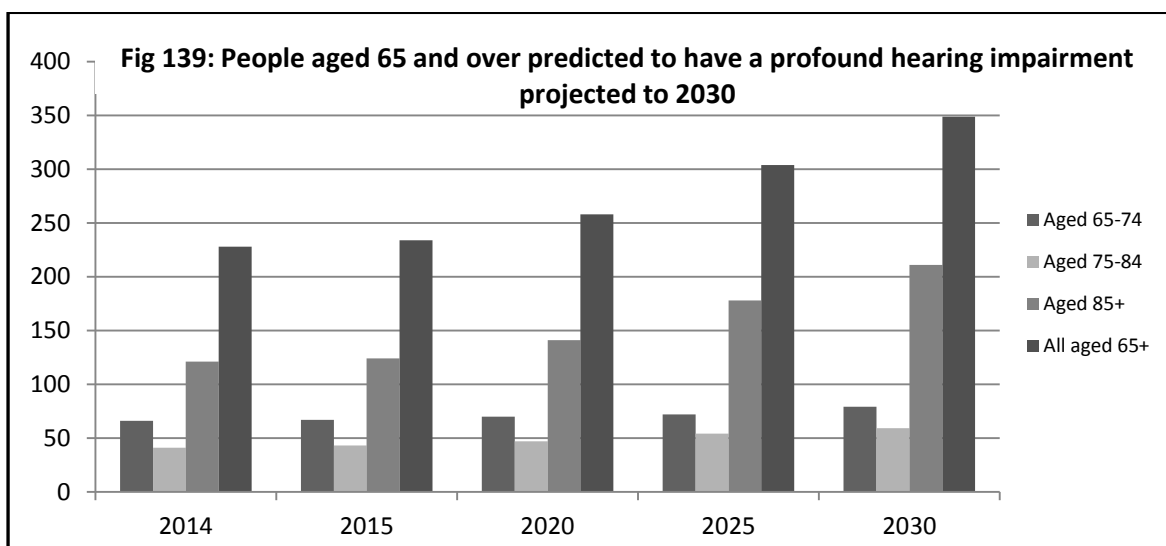
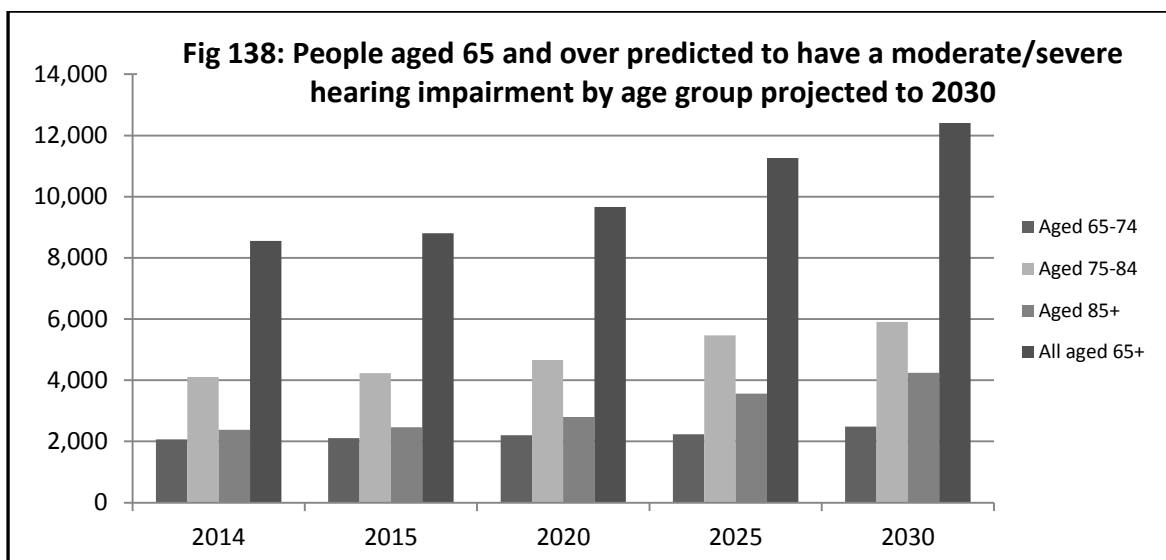
Projecting adult needs over the next 15 years provides useful information to aid in the commissioning of services and targeting resources. The Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information (PANSI) provides information about projected hearing loss in the population aged 18-64 from 2015 to 2030. The equivalent data predictions for over 65s are available from Project Older People Population Information System (POPPI).

Hearing loss may be moderate, severe or profound. The prevalence rates have been applied to ONS population projections of the 18-64 and the over 65 populations to give estimated numbers predicted to have a severe or profound hearing impairment, to 2030.

The following graphs show the projected hearing loss rates for Darlington to 2030.



*The model shows no-one under the age of 45 having a profound hearing impairment in 2030.



In the 2011 Census 150 people chose Sign Language as their main language.

MENTAL HEALTH

The [Community Mental Health Profile](#) [external link] provides comprehensive information about mental health in Darlington and comparisons with our North East neighbours and England.

Fig 140: Community Mental Health 2012/13	Numbers	
Depression: Patients aged 18 and over with depression, as recorded on practice disease registers	5,157	6.1%
Depression: The percentage of patients aged 18 and over with depression recorded on practice disease registers for the first time.	1,334	1.6%
The percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses as recorded on practice disease registers.	1,020	0.96%

LEARNING IMPAIRMENT

At the Darlington Learning Impairment Network in April 2014, local self-advocates asked that we replace the term learning disability with learning impairment. They felt that this new terminology was more in line with the social model of disability and reflected a new way of thinking about disabled people. In support of this, this document uses that terminology.

There are estimated to be 1.2 million people in England with a mild or moderate learning impairment, a rate of one person in every 40. This ratio would equate to approximately 2,500 people with a learning impairment in Darlington. There are currently approximately 550 people known to adult social care services.

The number of adults with complex support needs is predicted to increase by 1% each year due to increasing life expectancy and the growing number of disabled children who survive into adulthood. These figures do not take into account those people who do not come into contact with mainstream health or social care services, and therefore the exact numbers of people with a learning impairment in England are unknown.

The full section can be accessed clicking on the following link [Learning Impairment](#) *[insert hyperlink]*

Darlington's Learning Disability Profile 2015 can be found on the [Public Health Website](#) [external link]

Disabled Children and Young People [Source: CHIMAT 2015]

This report brings together key data and information which will help understand the demand, risk factors, provision and outcomes for services of a particular target population.

This includes:

- appropriate evidence-based information on prevalence;
- incidence and risk factors affecting the provision of healthcare services, and
- relevant expenditures

Prevalence of Disability In Children

The number of disabled children in England is estimated to be between 288,000 and 513,000 by the Thomas Coram Research Unit (TCRU). The mean percentage of disabled children in English local authorities has likewise been estimated to be between 3.0 percent and 5.4 percent¹. If applied to the population of Darlington this would equate to between 641 and 1,153 children experiencing some form of disability.

Chapter 10 (Disability) of The health of children and young people, Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2004 calculated prevalence rates using two sources – the General Household Survey (GHS) and the Family Fund Trust (FFT) register of applicants. Much of the following analysis and observation is taken from this document. The resulting age-specific estimates are as follows for Darlington.

The table below shows estimated numbers for mild disability. Children aged 0 to 4 years display lower prevalence than children in the higher age groups. This can be contrasted with the data from the second table which indicates the estimated of severe disability and where the rates are higher for children in the 0 to 4 age group.

Fig 142: Age-specific estimates (population aged 0 to 19 years) with long-standing illness or disability

	Darlington
Boys age 0-4 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	462
Boys age 5-9 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	800
Boys age 10-14 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	620
Boys age 15-19 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	594
Boys age 0-19 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	2,476
Girls age 0-4 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	416
Girls age 5-9 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	522
Girls age 10-14 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	589
Girls age 15-19 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	496
Girls age 0-19 living with longstanding illness or disability estimate (ONS) (2011)	2,023
Total	4,499

Fig 143: Age-specific estimates (population aged 0 to 19 years) of severely disabled population

	Darlington
Boys age 0-4 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	5
Boys age 5-9 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	4
Boys age 10-14 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	2
Boys age 15-19 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	1
Boys age 0-19 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	12
Girls age 0-4 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	3
Girls age 5-9 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	1
Girls age 10-14 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	1
Girls age 15-19 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	1
Girls age 0-19 who are severely disabled estimate (ONS) (2011)	6

Source: unpublished analysis of Family Fund Trust statistics

Prevalence rates by socio-economic background

The prevalence rates of children and adolescents with mild disabilities were found to be higher for those from semi-skilled manual and unskilled manual family backgrounds. The prevalence of children with mild disabilities from professional family backgrounds was lower in comparison to the other socio-economic groups. The rate of severe disability was found to be greatest amongst children from semi-skilled manual family backgrounds, whilst the lowest rates were for children from professional and managerial family background.

Estimates of prevalence of Visual Impairment

Data collected from local authority services tend to show prevalence of visual impairment at about 20 children per 10,000. However, the prevalence rate reported by the Department for

Education based on the individual pupil data collected from schools finds 10.5 per 10,000 whose primary special educational need is a visual or multi-sensory impairment.

The discrepancy between local authority and Department for Education data is as a result of the fact that the Department for Education data only includes children whose primary disability is sight problems. This means that Department for Education data is likely to under-represent the size of the population of pupils with a visual impairment. The table below shows the estimates for Darlington.

Fig 144: Visual Impairment estimates 5-15 years old. Prevalence estimates shown in brackets.

	Darlington
Visual impairment lower estimate (10.5 per 10,000) 2011	14
Visual impairment upper estimate (20 per 10,000) 2011	27

The only reliable national epidemiological estimate of prevalence in children only covers children at the most severe end of the visual acuity spectrum (Rahi and Cable).

National active surveillance schemes were used to identify children newly diagnosed with severe visual impairment or blindness during 2000. The annual incidence was highest in the first year of life, being 4.0 per 10,000, with a cumulative incidence by 16 years of age of 5.9 per 10,000. The study was restricted to those children with a severe visual impairment or blindness. The table below shows the estimates of the number of children, by age, with severe impairment or blindness.

Fig 145: Estimates of the number of children, by age, with severe impairment or blindness

	Darlington
Visual prevalence 0 (2011)	1
Visual prevalence 1-4 (2011)	-
Visual prevalence 5-16 (2011)	1
Visual prevalence under 16 (2011)	1

Deaf and hard of hearing

In 2010 there were 0.0 per 10,000 population aged 0-17 in Darlington who were registered as hard of hearing and 0.0 per 10,000 population aged 0-17 who were registered deaf. The table below shows how this compares to regional and national data.

Fig 146: Deaf and hard of hearing children aged 0-17 (rate per 10,000 population)

	Hard of hearing, 0-17 (2010)	Deaf, 0-17 (2010)
Darlington	0.0	0.0
England	2.0	2.0

Fig 147: Registered blind and partially sighted

	Registered Blind 0-17 (2008)	Partially sighted 0-17 (2008)
Darlington	2.3	0
England	4.3	5.3

In 2008 there were 2.3 per 10,000 population aged 0-17 in Darlington registered blind and no-one aged 0-17 registered partially sighted. The table below shows the comparison from 2006 where there is little change locally. It should be noted that these figures are unlikely to reflect the actual situation in Darlington and local intelligence gathered from individuals may not have been reflected in the Chimat dataset.

Fig 148: Blind and partially sighted children aged 0-17 (rate per 10,000 population)

	Registered blind, 0-17 (2006)	Registered blind, 0-17 (2008)	Registered partially sighted, 0-17 (2006)	Registered partially sighted, 0-17 (2008)
Darlington	2.3	2.3	-	-
England	3.5	4.3	4.4	5.3

Outcomes

The key available outcome indicator for disabled children is the parental experiences of provided services undertaken in 2009/10 for which the overall score for Darlington was 62.0, with a higher score indicating greater satisfaction. The overall national indicator score for 2009-10 was 61 out of 100. The overall score is based on an average of fifteen sub-indicators which each cover one of the five elements of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Core Offer (see note 1 at the end of this report for further details) in one of the three broad service areas of health, education and care & family support. The five elements are: good provision of information; transparency in how the available levels of support are determined; integrated assessment; participation of disabled children and their families in local services; accessible feedback and complaints procedures. The following table shows the individual scores for Darlington.

Fig 149: Parental experiences of services provided to disabled children

	Darlington
Overall Score (2009/10)	62.0
Information - Health (2009/10)	68.0
Information - Education (2009/10)	70.0
Information - Care and Family Support (2009/10)	70.0
Assessment - Health (2009/10)	87.0
Assessment - Education (2009/10)	75.0
Assessment - Care and Family Support (2009/10)	-
Transparency - Health (2009/10)	96.0
Transparency - Education (2009/10)	88.0
Transparency - Care and Family Support (2009/10)	95.0
Participation - Health (2009/10)	69.0
Participation - Education (2009/10)	38.0
Participation - Care and Family Support (2009/10)	60.0
Feedback - Health (2009/10)	13.0
Feedback - Education (2009/10)	20.0
Feedback - Care and Family Support (2009/10)	21.0

Use the following link to access further information from CHiMAT.

<http://www.chimat.org.uk/disability>

References:

Gordon D, Parker R, Loughran F, Heslop P: Disabled Children in Britain: A Re-Analysis of the OPCS Disability Surveys. London: The Stationery Office; 2000.

Rahi JS, Cable N, British Childhood Visual Impairment Study G. (2003). Severe visual impairment and blindness in children in the UK. *Lancet* 362(9393):1359-65.

Thomas Coram Research Unit & Institute of Education, University of London. Disabled Children: Numbers, Characteristics and Local Service Provision. Report to DCSF, 2008