



## Learning Disability Statistics Scotland, 2017

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A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

### Key Findings

Data users should note that this Statistics Release does not include information on adults with learning disabilities who are **not known** to local authorities. Users should also be aware there is a possibility individuals could be known to local authorities but **not reported** to SCLD. Learning Disability Statistics Scotland changed collection methodology in the current collection to align with that of other national social care datasets. The data reported in this release relate to a single year reporting period from April 2016 to March 2017, rather than the three year reporting period used in previous collections. For more information, please see the 'Background' and 'Methodology' sections of the Statistics Release, the accompanying quality documents to this release and Annexes C and D<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Annex C Data Quality Statement on Statistics Release: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland 2017' and 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2017' are available here:  
[http://www.sclد.org.uk/?page\\_id=866&preview=true](http://www.sclد.org.uk/?page_id=866&preview=true)

## **Adults with learning disabilities known to Scottish local authorities**

- In 2017, there were 23,186 adults known to local authorities across Scotland. This equates to 5.2 people with learning disabilities per 1,000 adults (16+) in the general population.

## **Adults on the autism spectrum**

- 4,755 adults were identified as being on the autism spectrum. Of these individuals, 3,531 (74.3%) were known to have a learning disability. There are 972 (20.4%) adults on the autism spectrum who were reported as not having a learning disability in the dataset.

## **Where people live**

- Just under a third of adults with learning disabilities (7,271; 31.4%) known to local authorities live with a family carer.
- Just under half of adults with learning disabilities (9,939; 45.7%) known to local authorities do not live with a family carer.
- 12,822 (55.3%) adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities are the only person with learning disabilities living in their accommodation.
- Just over a fifth of adults with learning disabilities (4,744 people; 20.5%) live with **at least** one other person with learning disabilities.
- Nearly two-thirds of adults with learning disabilities (14,431 people; 62.2%) known to local authorities live in mainstream accommodation.

## **Local Area Co-ordination (LAC)**

- Nationally 3,408 (14.7%) adults with a learning disability known to local authorities used LAC services during 2017.

## **Personal Life Plan**

- 14,875 adults known to local authorities had a personal life plan in 2017.

## **Employment**

- 1,219 adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities were in employment in 2017.
- 981 adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities were in training for employment in 2017.
- 903 adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities volunteered of these 95 were also in employment.
- There were 12,866 adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who were not in employment in 2017.
- There were 331 adults known to local authorities in non-open employment.
- There were 471 adults known to local authorities recorded as being in open employment in 2017.

## **Day centre and alternative opportunities**

- There were 4,401 adults known to local authorities who attended a day centre in 2017.
- 8,076 adults known to local authorities were recorded as having alternative opportunities in 2017.

## **Further education**

- There were 1,434 adults known to local authorities (6.2%) enrolled in further education in 2017.
- The number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities attending further education for 2.5 days per week or fewer was 695 in 2017.
- The number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities attending further education for 3 days a week or more was 550 in 2017.

## **Contents**

Page 5: **Introduction**

Page 6: **Information on the quality of the data**

Policy Context of Collection

Data Quality and Data Limitations

National Statistics Assessment

Page 15: **Adults known to local authorities**

Page 23: **Adults on the autism spectrum**

Page 26: **Lives with a family carer**

Page 31: **Number of people with learning disabilities in the same  
accommodation**

Page 33: **Accommodation type**

Page 38: **Local Area Co-ordination**

Page 40: **Personal Life Plans/Person Centred Plans**

Page 42: **Advocacy**

Page 45: **Employment opportunities**

Page 50: **Day centres and alternative opportunities**

Page 53: **Further education**

Page 56: **Further information on this release**

Background

Methodology

Page 60: **Further analysis**

Page 61: **Links to other data collections about people with learning  
disabilities in the UK**

## Introduction

This Statistics Release is based on the thirteenth set of national and local authority level figures provided by local authorities in Scotland for adults with learning disabilities. Data is requested from all Scottish local authorities on adults with learning disabilities known to them. Individual level information is collected on people:

- aged 16 and 17 who are not in full time education;
- aged 18 and over;
- who have had contact with the local authority in the last year.

All adults who match these criteria and who are known to local authorities, regardless of the services they are currently receiving (if any) are included in the data collection. Learning Disability Statistics Scotland changed collection methodology in the current collection to align with that of other national social care datasets. The data reported in this release relate to a single year reporting period from April 2016 to March 2017, compared to the three year reporting period used in previous collections. For more information, please see the 'Background' and 'Methodology' sections of the Statistics Release, the accompanying quality documents to this release and Annex D<sup>2</sup>.

In 2017, all 32 local authorities returned data to Learning Disability Statistics Scotland.

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<sup>2</sup> Annex C Data Quality Statement on Statistics Release: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland 2015' and 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2015' are available here: [http://www.sclد.org.uk/?page\\_id=866&preview=true](http://www.sclد.org.uk/?page_id=866&preview=true)

## Information on the quality of the data

### Development of LDSS

In June 2013, the Scottish Government launched its strategy for people with learning disabilities in Scotland, 'The keys to life: Improving quality of life for people with learning disabilities'.<sup>3</sup>

This year, collection of Learning Disability Statistics Scotland data continued to be carried out by the ScotXed Team within Scottish Government using their ProcXed system. The 2017 LDSS Statistical Release is the second to be published under this new system of collection. This change to the collection methodology has, for the most part, led to increased standardisation and improved data quality due to data provider familiarity with the system, alignment with other social care data returns, in-built validation checks and improved data feedback. Responsibility for the development of the dataset and analysis and publication of data has remained with SCLD.

SCLD recognises that with the changing policy context, data users, data suppliers and other stakeholders will want to ensure that the data provided in this publication continues to meet their needs and measure relevant outcomes. Since the previous LDSS collection in 2015, steps have been taken to bring together the Social Care Survey and Learning Disability Statistics Scotland into a single data collection that can meet all user needs and reduce burden on local authorities.

This meant that several aspects of LDSS changed for the 2017 collection. The data collection period for LDSS changed to mirror the Social Care Survey; this means the data reporting period was changed from three years to one year and the data collection period was **1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017** as opposed to September – December, as it historically had been. As the data was collected in 2017 and published in 2017, the publication has been named LDSS 2017 rather than LDSS 2016. As a result, the lack of a publication titled '2016' is not an indication of a missing year, rather it is as a result of the methodological changes that have been implemented. Owing to these methodological changes, users should exercise caution when

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<sup>3</sup> Scottish Government, 2013, 'The keys to life: Improving quality of life for people with learning disabilities', Edinburgh: The Scottish Government, available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00424389.pdf>

attempting to compare 2017 data to that of previous years.

For the 2017 collection, LDSS asked for the records of people with whom local authorities **had contact with in the last 12 months**, not the last three years as in previous collections. **Full Date of Birth** was asked for as opposed to Birth Year. Postcode was a **mandatory** field. **Self-directed Support** was not requested this year and instead the equivalent **Social Care ID Number** was asked for; this allows for data linkage to happen between the Social Care Survey, in particular the SDS data they collect, and LDSS. The return of **CHI** data to LDSS will further support future data linkage across health and social care data.

In addition to this, LDSS data has been matched to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation but has not been reported in LDSS 2017. A future publication with the Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) team is planned for early 2018. This will help facilitate a deeper analysis of the deprivation data and the deprivation profiles of people with learning disabilities in Scotland.

In early 2016, a national approach to scope a weighting methodology to reduce the impact of non-response bias on the data was undertaken by the Methodology Advisory Service from the Office for National Statistics funded by the Quality Improvement Fund. This study found that the use of a weighting schema to tackle non-response bias and differential missingness would not be appropriate for short-term time series analysis. The methodological changes made to this year's collection mean accurate comparisons cannot be made with previous years' data. However, it is recognized that the ability to analyse LDSS data over longer periods of time and between years is of value going forward and further work to determine a methodology capable of doing this is ongoing. Further information can be found in the National Statistics Assessment section of this report.

Further information on the operational and administrative data context can be found in the accompanying quality documents 'Annex C Data Quality Statement on Statistics Release: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland 2017' and 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2017'.

## **Data Quality and Data Limitations**

For a more comprehensive assessment of data quality within the Statistical Release, please see 'Annex C Data Quality Statement on Statistics Release: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland 2017' and accompanying 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2017'<sup>4</sup>.

This statistical release contains information on adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in Scotland and which are then reported to Learning Disability Statistics Scotland. Data users must be aware that this statistical release does not include adults with learning disabilities who are not known to local authorities. Individual local authority areas endeavour to provide as complete a dataset as is possible however it is possible some individuals known to local authorities may not then be reported to SCLD. For further information, see Annexes C and D.

By the nature of administrative data recording, it is likely that the sample of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities is biased towards those who require some formal support services and away from those who have no, or few, support needs. The statistical return does include individuals who have relatively little formal support or contact with their local authority but are known to the local authority, for example because they may use a supported employment service, local area co-ordinator or attend further education.

Although data completeness has been gradually improving since 2008 across all of the data items collected, some missing data remains. This is both within individual data items, for example employment, and some individual level records only hold limited data, for example, we may know only year of birth and gender for the person in question. Incomplete data within a data item, e.g. employment, can arise because a whole local authority may not have submitted any data on that item or there may be barriers to the local authority collecting the data or matching it to the relevant individual. Where local authorities do not submit data for specific data items, particularly where this differs between years (differential

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.sclد.org.uk/learning-disability-statistics-scotland/policies-procedures/>



missingness), this has an effect on policy monitoring and evaluation at national level as only a partial picture of progress can be supplied. It may prevent people with learning disabilities, family carers and local organisations from building an accurate picture of the situation in their local authority. It may impact on local third sector organisations' ability to provide evidence for funding applications

The table below shows where local authorities have not submitted data for a given data item for the 2017 data collection.

## Local authorities which have not returned specific data items (2017)

| Data item                               | Local authorities which have not returned data on this item                       |
|---|---|
| Adults living with a family carer       | Aberdeenshire<br>Clackmannanshire<br>North Lanarkshire                            |
| Adults living in the same accommodation | Aberdeenshire<br>Clackmannanshire<br>North Lanarkshire                            |
| Advocacy                                | City of Edinburgh<br>Orkney Islands<br>Renfrewshire<br>Shetland<br>South Ayrshire |
| Alternative opportunities               | Aberdeenshire   |
| Day Centre Use                          | North Lanarkshire   |
| Employment Opportunities                | City of Edinburgh   |
| Further education                       | Aberdeenshire<br>City of Edinburgh<br>Glasgow City<br>Stirling                    |

Note: Across all data items, 32 local authorities returned data to LDSS.

The table below show the main changes in the data items that were requested between 2008 and 2017 and the completeness of data reporting for each item. Reporting at a national level has increased since 2017 for the following items<sup>5</sup>:

- Ethnic Group;
- Day centre attendance;
- Alternative opportunities;
- Accommodation type;
- PLP;
- Employment opportunities;
- Further Education.

<sup>5</sup> For further information about the changes in data completeness please see Annex D.

Data completeness remained the same for:

- Gender;
- Year of Birth;
- LAC.

Data completeness has decreased for:

- Family carer;
- Learning disability;
- Adults in the same accommodation;
- Autism Spectrum Diagnosis.

## Completeness of data reporting (2008 - 2017)<sup>6</sup>

| Data items                       | Number of reporting LAs | Total adults for which item reported | Total missing values | % of all adults in Scotland for which item known |      |      |      |      |      |      |  | 2015 | 2017 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|------|------|
|                                  |                         |                                      |                      | 2008   | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |  |      |      |
| Gender                           | 32                      | 23,185                               | 1                    | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100  | 99   |  | 100% | 100% |
| Year of birth                    | 32                      | 23,178                               | 8                    | 99   | 99   | 99   | 100  | 100  | 100  | 99   |  | 100% | 100% |
| Learning disability              | 32                      | 22,768                               | 418                  | 99   | 99   | 99   | 99   | 100  | 100  | 98   |  | 99%  | 98%  |
| Adults in the same accommodation | 29                      | 17,566                               | 5,620                | 58   | 69   | 77   | 81   | 80   | 77   | 77   |  | 78%  | 76%  |
| Ethnic group                     | 32                      | 21,049                               | 2,137                | 68   | 79   | 85   | 90   | 89   | 90   | 89   |  | 89%  | 91%  |
| Lives with family carer          | 30                      | 17,210                               | 5,976                | 64   | 73   | 78   | 82   | 78   | 81   | 80   |  | 78%  | 74%  |
| Day centre attendance            | 31                      | 18,612                               | 4,574                | -  | -    | -    | -    | 86   | 73   | 75   |  | 65%  | 80%  |
| Alternative opportunities        | 29                      | 17,282                               | 5,904                | -  | -    | -    | -    | 64   | 59   | 59   |  | 59%  | 75%  |
| Autism Spectrum Diagnosis        | 32                      | 19,285                               | 3,901                | 53   | 57   | 74   | 80   | 83   | 83   | 82   |  | 85%  | 83%  |
| Accommodation type               | 32                      | 20,998                               | 2,188                | -  | 81   | 89   | 90   | 91   | 89   | 89   |  | 90%  | 91%  |
| Personal Life Plan               | 32                      | 19,036                               | 4,123                | 49   | 55   | 61   | 73   | 75   | 74   | 72   |  | 75%  | 82%  |
| Employment opportunities*        | 32                      | 14,085                               | 9,101                | 45   | 53   | 55   | 61   | 68   | 65   | 67   |  | 59%  | 61%  |
| Local Area Co-ordination         | 32                      | 23,186                               | 0                    | 45   | 57   | 68   | 79   | 81   | 80   | 99   |  | 100% | 100% |
| Further Education                | 29                      | 12,675                               | 10,511               | n/a  | 44   | 45   | 55   | 55   | 55   | 57   |  | 54%  | 55%  |

<sup>6</sup> Percentages represent the percentage of the learning disability population in reporting authorities (please see first column in table) and are calculated from the total learning disability population in Scotland each year (23,186 in 2017; 27,218 in 2015; 26,786 in 2014; 26,236 in 2013; 26,117 in 2012; 26,036 in 2011; 27,391 in 2010; 27,671 in 2009 and 25,252 in 2008).

\* Employment opportunities methodology differs from 2015 onwards meaning that the figure is not comparable to previous returns.

\* A methodological change was implemented between 2015 and 2017 to reduce the data reporting period from three years to one year. This means the 2017 data is not directly comparable to other years.

Data users should, therefore, be aware that the totals presented within this report are likely to be an underestimation of the true numbers of adults with learning disabilities in a given situation or accessing a given service. For ease, each section of the report begins with information about the data completeness for that item to assist data users to make an assessment around data accuracy.

Data users include local authorities, the Scottish Government, academics, inspection bodies, third sector organisations, people with learning disabilities and family carers. Information on use comes from responses to a survey of users undertaken in 2014, from the stated purposes of the statistics collection by the Scottish Government and from the knowledge and experience of the statistical producer team.

Uses of the data include:

- Informing the general public's choices:
  - a) about the state of the economy, society and the environment
  - b) about the performance of government and public bodies
- Government decision making about policies, and associated decisions about related programmes and projects to inform:
  - a) policy making
  - b) policy monitoring
- Resource allocation – typically by central and local government
- Supporting third sector activity, for example lobbying and funding applications
- Facilitating academic research.

The data published in the 2017 release were collected between April and July 2017. Learning Disability Statistics Scotland changed collection methodology in the current collection to align with that of other national social care datasets. The Statistical Release on adults with learning disabilities known to Scottish local authorities was previously published on an annual basis in August. This timeframe was agreed with local authority data suppliers when the collection of individual level data first began, in order that the statistics could inform local authority budget

decisions, usually made in the autumn. However, for the first time this it has been published in December.

Data users should be aware that before 2008, information on adults with learning disabilities was collected at aggregate level by the Scottish Government. The statistics collected before 2008 are not directly comparable with those collected from 2009 onwards. Detailed data item definitions were developed for the individual level collection which may not be directly comparable with those used for the aggregate collection by the Scottish Government. Data users should compare data from before 2008 with data after 2008 with caution. More information on the background of this data collection and the methodology can be found in Section 14 of this release. As a result of the methodological change this year, it is not possible to accurately compare the data presented in this release with that of previous years’.

Information on other relevant sources of data from across the United Kingdom on adults with learning disabilities and their comparability with these statistics is provided in Page 61 of this Statistics Release.

## **National Statistics Assessment**

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority’s regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer’s responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics, and to improve its statistics on a continuous basis. If a producer becomes concerned about whether its statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, it should discuss its concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

The UK Statistics Authority designated these statistics as National Statistics in 2015 on the basis of a clear description of the current limitations of the learning disability statistics, and subject to the proposed data collection and methods improvements being implemented from 2016.

A specific condition of the LDSS National Statistics designation was to explore the feasibility of a weighting schema that would tackle non-response bias and differential missingness within the dataset. A study conducted by the Methodology Advisory Service from the Office for National Statistics funded by the Quality Improvement Fund found that use of a weighting schema to tackle non-response bias and differential missingness would not be appropriate<sup>7</sup>. LDSS are still looking into the feasibility of longer-term trend analysis and time series and possible methodologies to achieve that end. Owing to the impact of the methodological changes on potential data comparisons, it was not appropriate to progress this agenda in 2017. However, work will continue for future collections and, once scoped, time series analysis will be re-introduced to this publication alongside guidance to aid users' understanding of the outputs.

Further information on the impact of non-response bias and differential missingness on this dataset and the steps we undertook to reduce them can be found in the accompanying quality documents: 'Annex C Data Quality Statement on Statistics Release: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland 2017' and 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2017'.

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<sup>7</sup> This report can be found here: <http://www.sclد.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/LDSS-QIF-report.pdf>

## **1: Adults known to local authorities**

Local authorities reported on the number of adults with learning disabilities known to services within their area. In 2017, 32 local authorities provided information on 23,186 adults across Scotland.

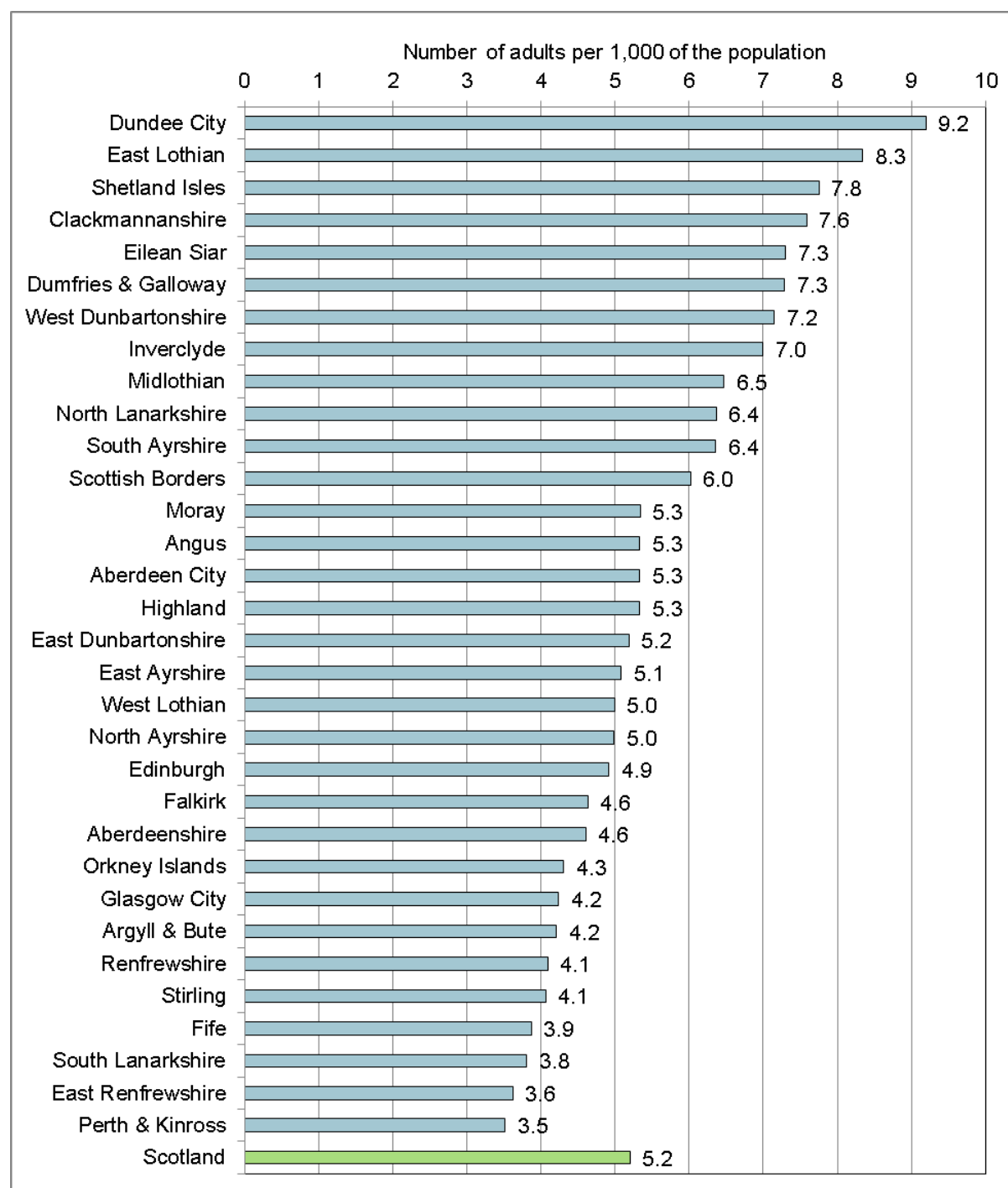
The number of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

The number of adults with learning disabilities known to Scottish local authorities has decreased by 4,032, from 27,218 in 2015 to 23,186 in 2017, this is a decrease of 14.8%. This reduction is likely to be the result of the methodological change, and quality changes, rather than representing any true fluctuation. As a result of this methodological change, it is not possible to accurately compare the data presented in this release with that of previous years'. Further detail on why there has been such a change has been outlined in Annex D.

In 2017, Dundee City Council was the local authority with the most adults with learning disabilities per 1,000 of the population (9.2). Perth & Kinross Council was lowest with 3.5 per 1,000.



**Figure 1: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities per 1,000 population (2017)<sup>8</sup>**



<sup>8</sup> General population data sourced from the mid-year 2016 population estimates produced by the General Register Office for Scotland:  
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2016>

**Table 1: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2017)**

|              | Male          | Female       | Other specific gender | Gender not known | Total         | Rate per 1,000 population * |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 16-17        | 188           | 75           | -                     | -                | 263           | 2.3                         |
| 18-20        | 1,123         | 518          | -                     | -                | 1,641         | 8.4                         |
| 21-34        | 4,821         | 2,780        | -                     | -                | 7,601         | 7.4                         |
| 35-44        | 1,951         | 1,432        | -                     | -                | 3,384         | 5.1                         |
| 45-54        | 2,324         | 1,795        | -                     | -                | 4,119         | 5.2                         |
| 55-64        | 1,976         | 1,596        | -                     | -                | 3,572         | 5.2                         |
| 65 and over  | 1,308         | 1,290        | -                     | -                | 2,598         | 2.6                         |
| Not known    | 6             | 2            | -                     | -                | 8             | -                           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>13,697</b> | <b>9,488</b> | <b>-</b>              | <b>1</b>         | <b>23,186</b> | <b>5.2</b>                  |

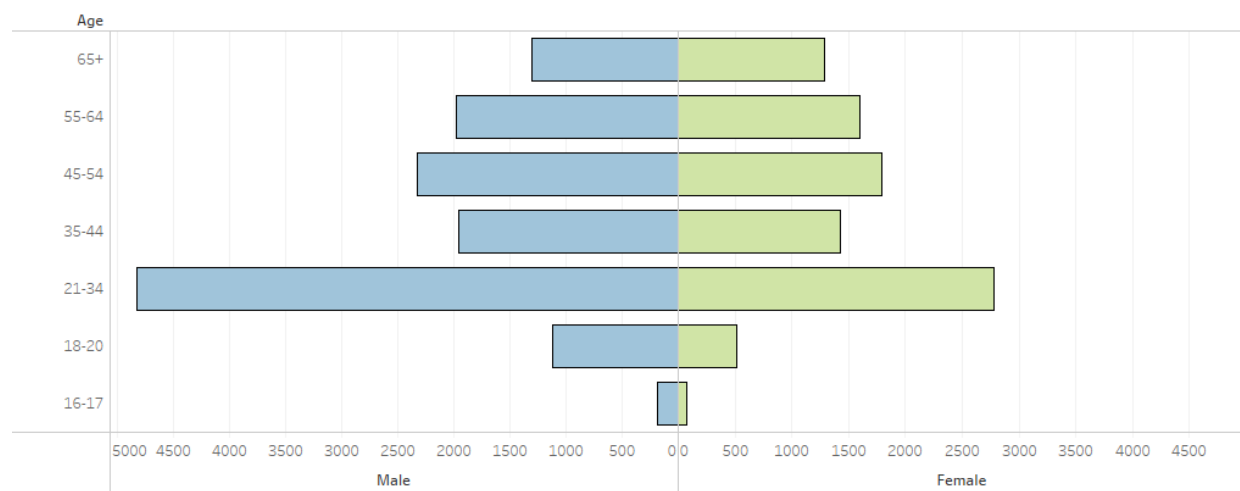
## Age and Gender Structure

The majority of adults with learning disabilities and/or who are on the autism spectrum and are known to services are men (13,697 adults, 59.1%). There are 9,488 women (40.9%) with learning disabilities and/or who are on the autism spectrum known to local authorities.

The chart below shows the number of men and women with learning disabilities known to local authorities by age. Adults aged 21-34 were the largest group by age, the majority of whom are men. There are also more men than women aged 35-64, but the difference is less pronounced. For adults aged 65 and over, there are almost equal numbers of men and women.

Figure 2 illustrates that people aged 16-17 make up a small proportion of the all individuals included in this report. This is because this data collection does not record information about adults aged 16-17 who are in full time education. Data users should be aware that the true number of young people with learning disabilities aged 16-17 years old is likely to be significantly higher than the number recorded here.

**Figure 2: Age and gender structure of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2017)**

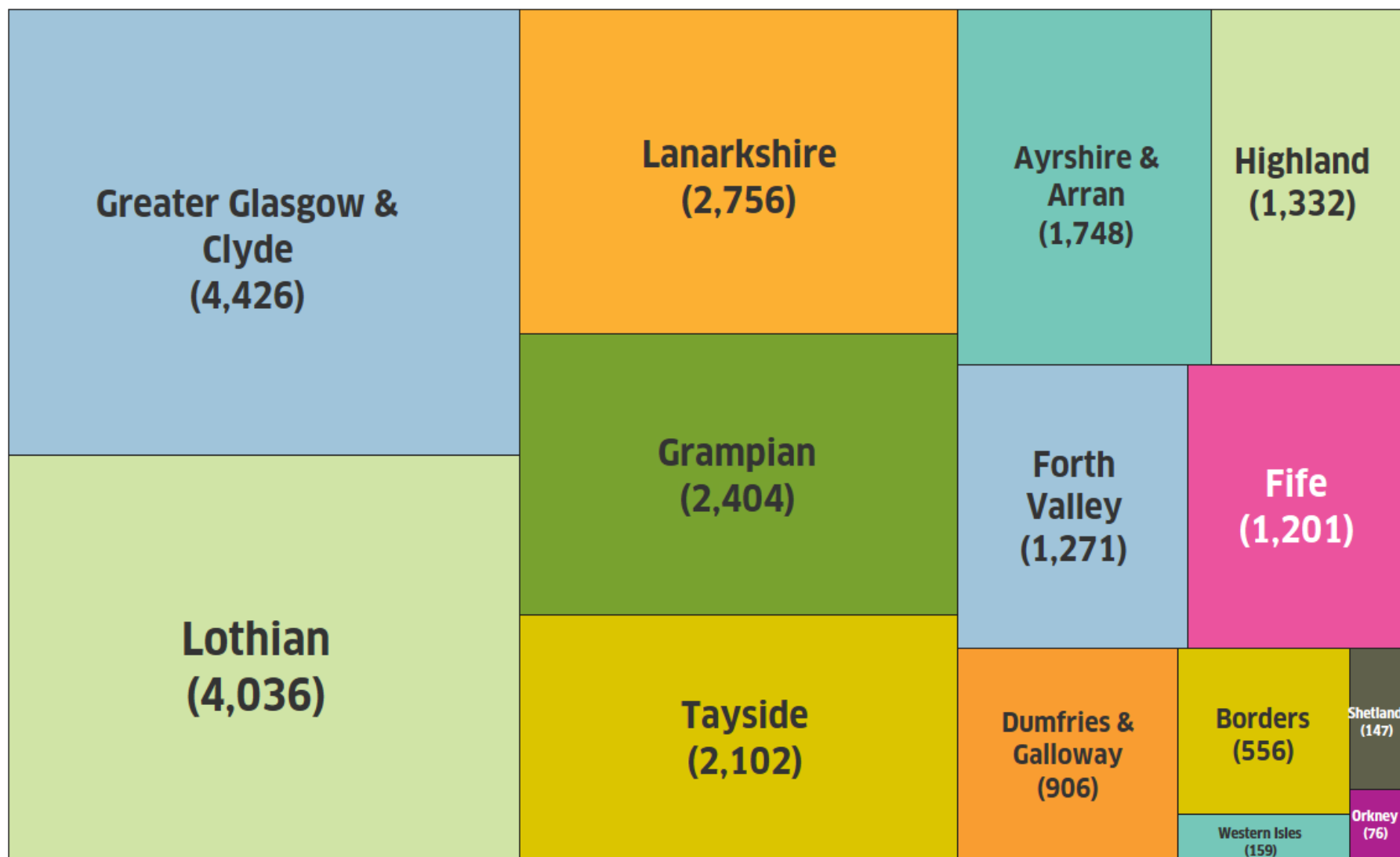


### Number of adults within NHS boards

This data collection records the number of adults with learning disabilities in Scotland by the 14 geographical NHS boards. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

Data users should also be aware that some adults with learning disabilities who are resident in NHS funded facilities, such as mental health hospitals, may be living outwith both the local authority which records the information and the health board which would normally be responsible for the provision of healthcare. This data collection requests information from local authorities on adults with learning disabilities for whom they fund services. A small number of adults with learning disabilities are funded by Scottish local authorities to access specialist services elsewhere in the UK and these individuals are living in out of area placements. The 2017 data shows 831 adults with learning disabilities living in out of area placements, both across Scotland and in other areas of the UK.

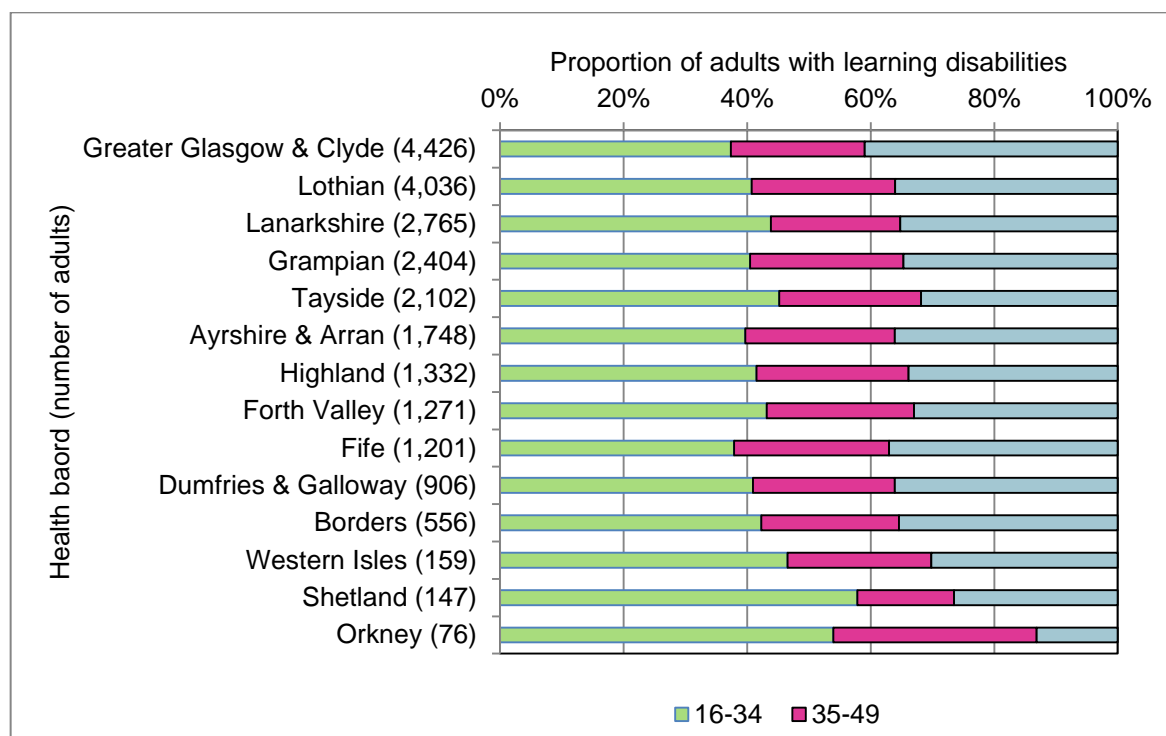
**Figure 3: Number of adults within NHS boards in Scotland (2017)\***



\*57 adults are resident in an area covered by an English health authority.

The chart below shows the proportions of adults with learning disabilities aged 16-34, 35-49 and 50 and over in each NHS board.

**Figure 4: Age structure of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in NHS board areas (2017)**



Overall, the highest proportion of adults who are aged 16-34 years old are in Shetland NHS Board who reported over 57.8% of their population comprising of adults aged 16-34 years old. Of the larger health boards, Tayside NHS Board had the highest proportions of adults who are aged 16-34 years old. Orkney NHS Board had the highest proportions of adults who are aged 35-49 years old. Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS Board had the highest proportion of adults aged 50 and over.

## Ethnicity

Ethnicity was recorded for 21,049 adults with learning disabilities (90.7%) known to local authorities. The majority (88.1%) of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in Scotland were recorded as 'white'. In 2017, only 1.8% (436 people) were recorded as being from a black/minority ethnic background. Of these, 271 people were classified as being of 'Asian, Asian Scottish, Asian British' ethnicity; 77 people as

of mixed ethnicity; 39 people as of 'Black, Black British, Black Scottish' ethnicity; and 49 as 'other ethnic group'. A further 0.8% (187 people) did not disclose their ethnicity to their local authority, while the ethnicity for 9.2% (2,137) was not known. There is likely to be an undercount of ethnic groups other than White.

**Table 2: Ethnicity of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2017)**

|   | Frequency     | Percent (%)<br>of all adults |
|---|---------------|------------------------------|
| <b>White</b>  | 20,426        | 88.1                         |
| <b>Mixed</b>  | 77            | 0.3                          |
| <b>Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British</b>           | 271           | 1.2                          |
| <b>Black, Black Scottish or Black British</b>           | 39            | 0.2                          |
| <b>Other ethnic background, not otherwise specified</b> | 49            | 0.2                          |
| <b>Not disclosed</b>                                    | 187           | 0.8                          |
| <b>Not known</b>  | 2,137         | 9.2                          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>23,186</b> | <b>100</b>                   |

Notes:

\*'White' comprises Scottish, English, Welsh, Northern Irish, British, Irish, Traveller, Polish and other.

\*Asian, Black, Mixed Race or other ethnic group comprises Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Chinese, African, Caribbean, Arab and any other groups.

\*Percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Further information on the age structure, gender and ethnicity of people with learning disabilities is available at national level in Annex A and at local authority level in Annex B.**

## **2. Adults on the autism spectrum<sup>9</sup>**

The project collects information on adults with learning disabilities and adults on the autism spectrum who are known to local authorities. Some people are recorded as having learning disabilities and as being on the autism spectrum, whereas some people are recorded as being on the autism spectrum but with no associated learning disability. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

Local authorities reported on the number of adults on the autism spectrum known to services within their area. In 2017, 32 local authorities provided autism spectrum diagnoses information on 19,285 adults across Scotland.

There were 4,755 adults known to local authorities who were identified as being on the autism spectrum. This is 20.5% of the total number of adults known to local authorities.

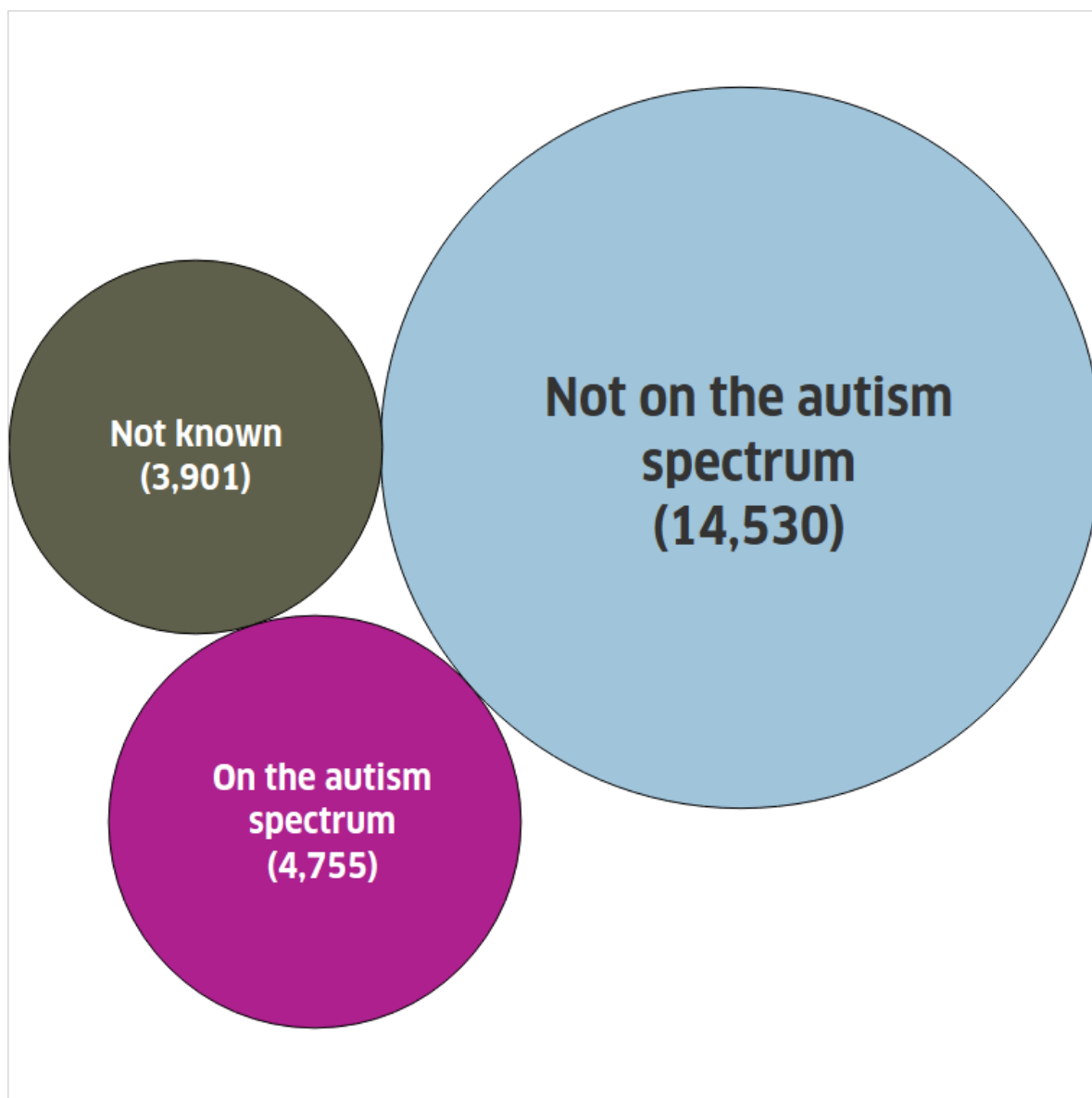
Of the individuals recorded as being on the autism spectrum, 3,531 (74.2%) also have a learning disability. There are 972 adults on the autism spectrum (20.4%) known to local authorities who do not have learning disabilities. There are also 418 adults (8.7%) on the autism spectrum whose learning disability status is not recorded.

It is likely that this data represents a significant underestimate of the number of adults who are on the autism spectrum but have no associated learning disability. This is partly due to the fact that the data is collected directly from local authority learning disability services, with which adults on the autism spectrum may not have had direct contact, because they may not be receiving formal support or this may be available from other sources, such as the NHS.

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<sup>9</sup> It is recognised that there are a number of different terms used to refer to people on the autism spectrum. For consistency reasons, this release uses the term 'adults on the autism spectrum' and abbreviates this to AS where appropriate.

**Figure 5: Autism status for adults with learning disabilities known to Scottish local authorities (2017)**

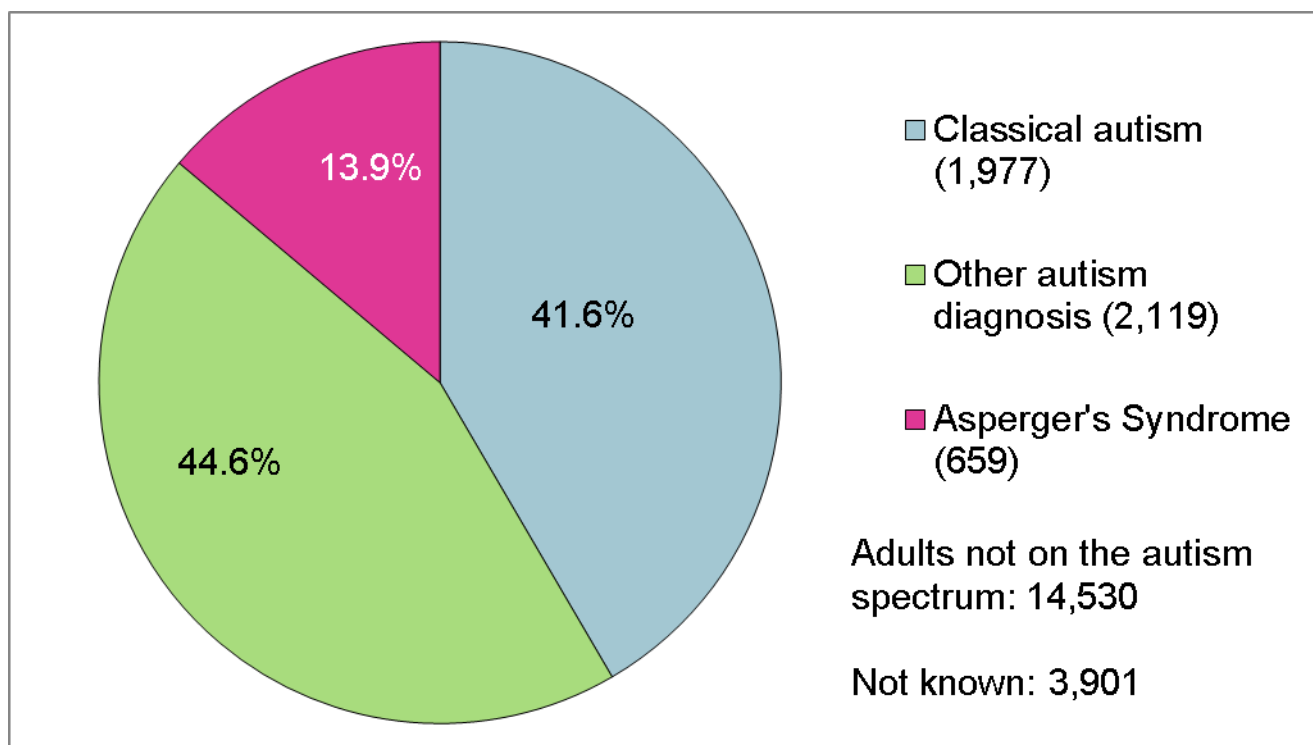


In 2017, of the adults recorded as being on the autism spectrum:

- 41.6% (1,977 adults) had classical autism;
- 44.6% (2,119 adults) had an 'other autism spectrum diagnosis'; and
- 13.9% (659 adults) had Asperger's Syndrome.



**Figure 6: Adults on the autism spectrum who are known to local authorities (2017)\***



\*This does not include adults who are not on the autism spectrum or for whom this information has not been recorded.

### 3: Lives with a family carer

Local authorities were asked to provide information on whether adults with learning disabilities were living with family carers. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

In 2017, 29 local authorities<sup>10</sup> provided information on whether 17,210 adults across Scotland lived with a family carer. This is 74.2% of all adults.

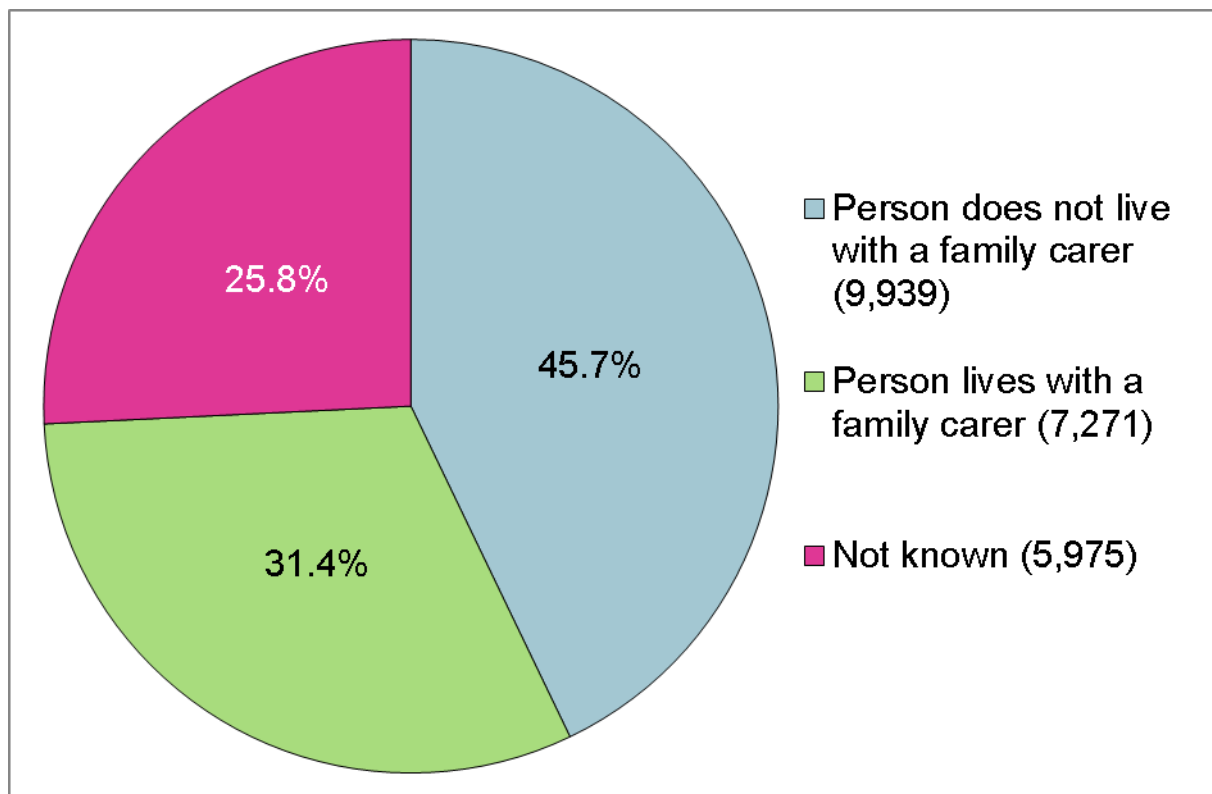
In 2017, there were 7,271 adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who live with a family carer. This is 31.4% of **all adults** with learning disabilities known to local authorities.

Figure 8 shows that just under a third of all adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities lived with a family carer in 2017. Nearly half of all adults did not live with a family carer.

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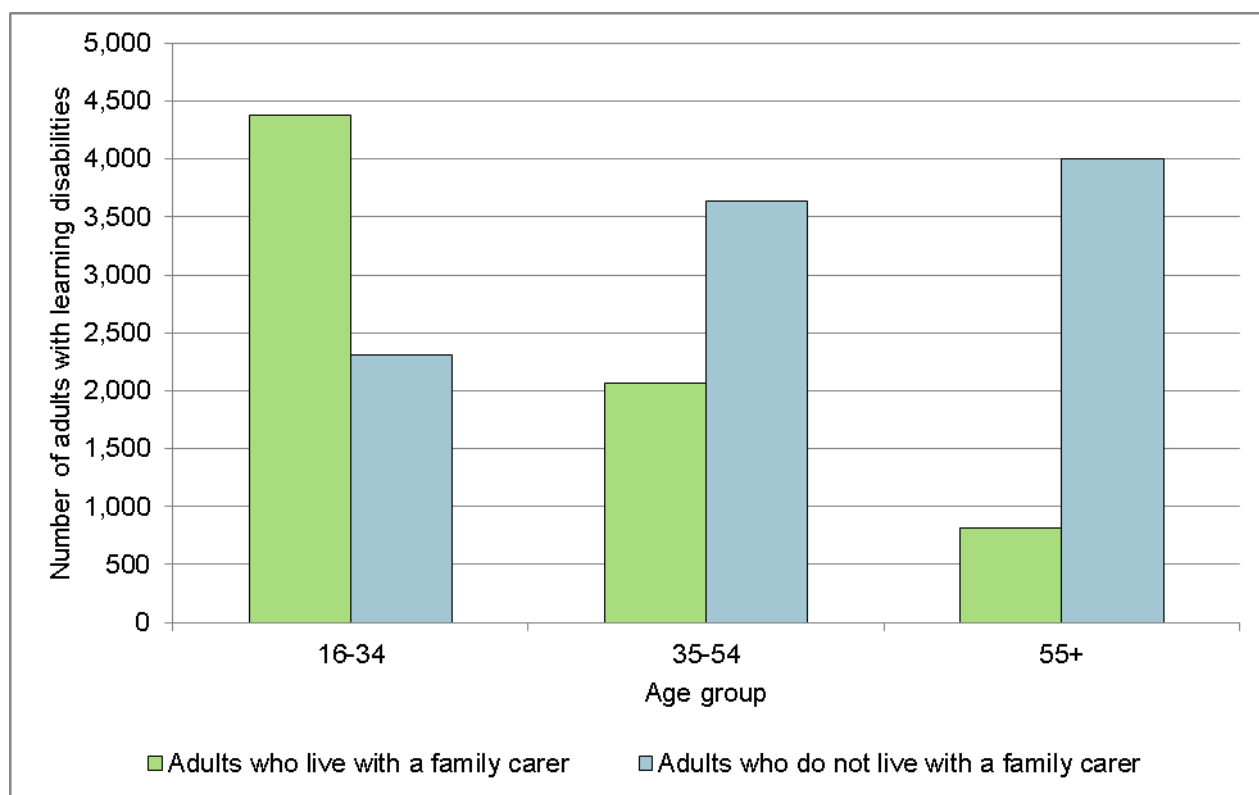
<sup>10</sup> Aberdeenshire Council, Clackmannanshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council did not return data for this item.

**Figure 7: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who do/do not live with a family carer (2017)**



As shown by Figure 8, when considering the living status of different age groups, the older a person with learning disabilities is, the less likely they are to live with a family carer. 60.3% of adults aged under 35 lived with a family carer. 28.4% of adults aged 35-54 lived with a family carer and 11.3% of adults aged 55+ lived with a family carer.

**Figure 8: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who do/do not live with a family carer by age (2017)**



**Table 3: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who do/do not live with a family carer by age (2017)**

|              | Person lives with a parent carer | Person lives with other family carer | Person does not live with a family carer | Not known    | All adults who live with a family carer |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|---|
| 16-17        | 33                               | 22                                   | 36                                       | 172          | 263                                     |
| 18-20        | 596                              | 187                                  | 196                                      | 662          | 1,641                                   |
| 21-34        | 2,931                            | 614                                  | 2,073                                    | 1,983        | 7,601                                   |
| 35-44        | 907                              | 191                                  | 1,443                                    | 843          | 3,384                                   |
| 45-54        | 649                              | 319                                  | 2,193                                    | 958          | 4,119                                   |
| 55-64        | 294                              | 285                                  | 2,204                                    | 789          | 3,572                                   |
| 65+          | 49                               | 191                                  | 1,794                                    | 564          | 2,598                                   |
| Not known    | 2                                | 1                                    | 0  | 5            | 8                                       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>5,461</b>                     | <b>1,810</b>                         | <b>9,939</b>                             | <b>5,976</b> | <b>23,186</b>                           |

Of all adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in 2017:

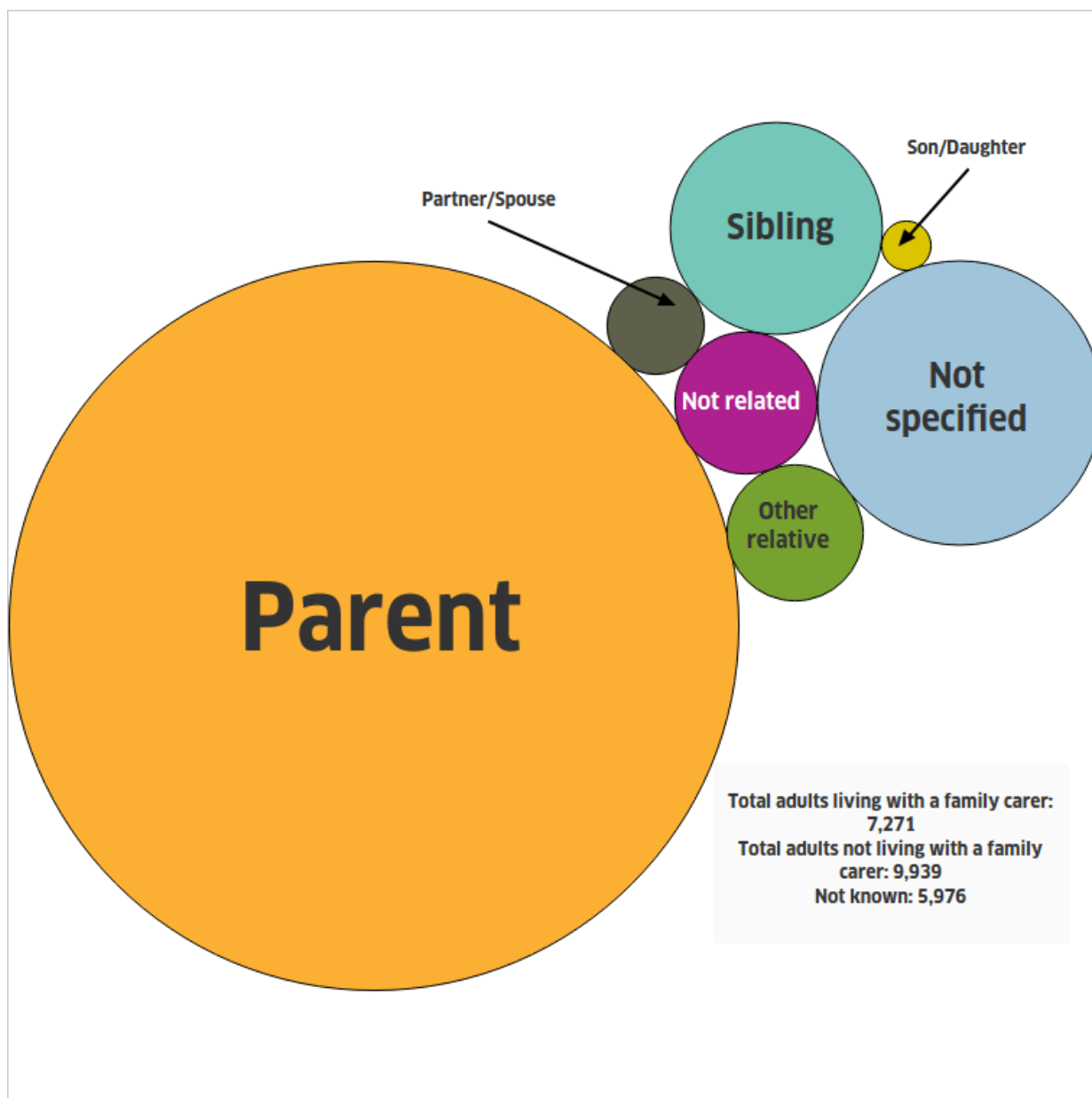
- 5,461 lived with a parent carer (23.6%);
- 830 lived with a family carer that was not specified (3.6%);
- 461 lived with a sibling (2.0%);
- 190 lived with another relative (0.8%);
- 207 lived with a family carer they are not related to (0.9%);<sup>11</sup>
- 97 lived with a partner/spouse (0.4%);
- and 25 lived with a son/daughter (0.1%).

In 2017, there were 4,383 adults with learning disabilities aged 35 and under living with a family carer. Table 3 shows that there are also 992 adults with learning disabilities aged 45 and over who are living with a parent carer. This is 9.6% of all adults aged 45 and over. This indicates that there are a considerable number of older people who are carers of at least one adult with learning disabilities.

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<sup>11</sup> The 'family carer not related' sub code refers to people who have support to live with a family which is not their own.

**Figure 9: Types of family carer with whom adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities live (2017)\***



\*Chart does not include information for adults for whom this information is not known.

#### **4: Number of people with learning disabilities in the same accommodation**

Local authorities were asked to provide information on how many people with learning disabilities were living in the same household. Other people with learning disabilities in a given household include people who are aged under 16 and/or are in full-time education. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

In 2015, 29 local authorities<sup>12</sup> provided information on the number of people with learning disabilities living in the same accommodation for 17,566 (75.8%) adults across Scotland.

As Figure 10 below shows, 12,822 adults (55.3%) with learning disabilities were the only person with a learning disability living in their accommodation. There were also 3,145 adults (13.6%) who lived with 1-3 other people and 1,599 adults (6.9%) who lived with 4 or more other people.

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<sup>12</sup> Aberdeenshire Council, Clackmannanshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council did not return data for this item.

**Figure 10: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities living in the same accommodation (2017)**

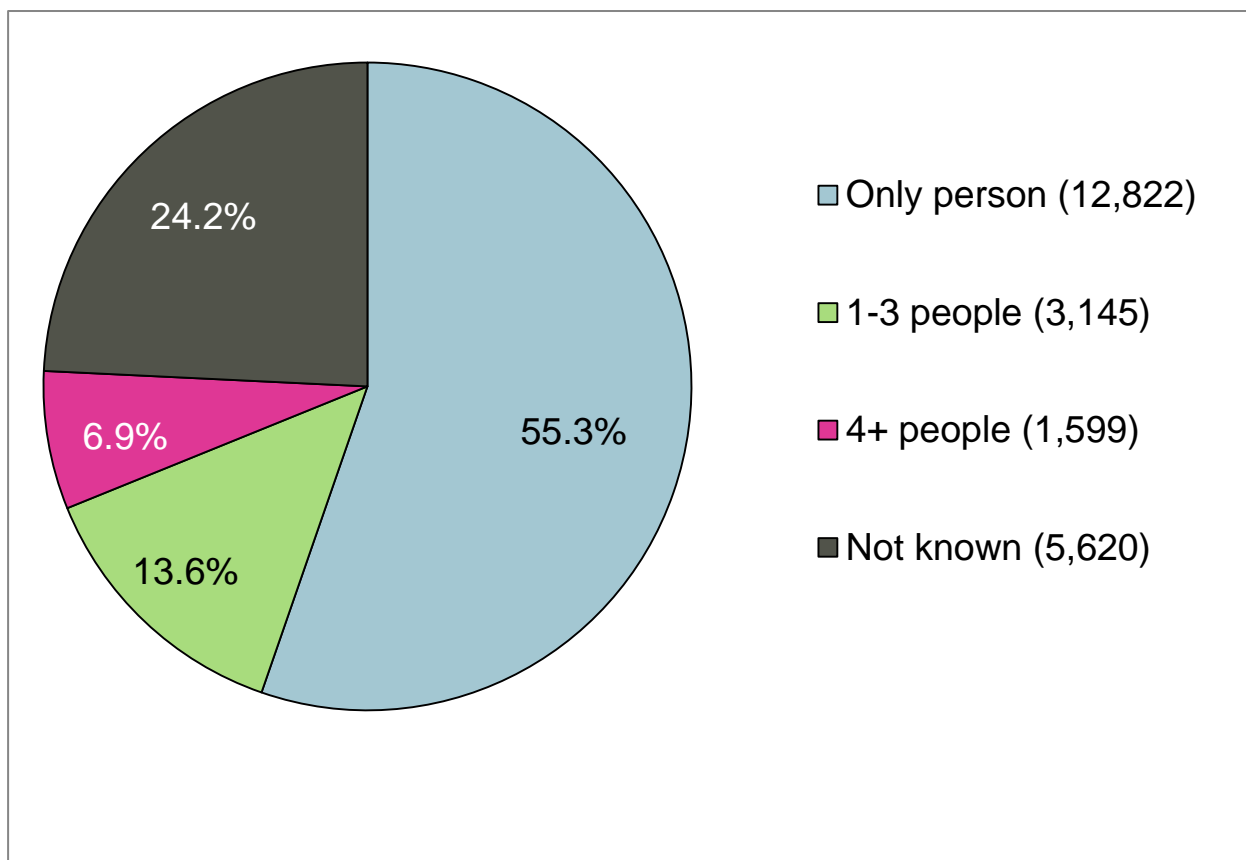


Table 4 shows that of the adults who were the only person with learning disabilities in their accommodation, 46.8% were living with a family carer. There were also 790 adults living with a family carer who lived with one or more people with learning disabilities. This means there are a number of family carers, estimated to be several hundred, who are supporting more than one person with learning disabilities.

**Table 4: Number of adults living in the same accommodation by family carer status (2017)**

|                        | Adults who live with a family carer | Adults who do not live with a family carer | Not known    | Total         |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| Only person            | 6,004                               | 5,610                                      | 1,208        | 12,822        |
| 1-3 other people       | 721                                 | 2,181                                      | 243          | 3,145         |
| 4 or more other people | 69                                  | 1,389                                      | 141          | 1,599         |
| Not known              | 477                                 | 759  | 4,384        | 5,620         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>7,271</b>                        | <b>9,939</b>                               | <b>5,976</b> | <b>23,186</b> |



## 5: Accommodation type

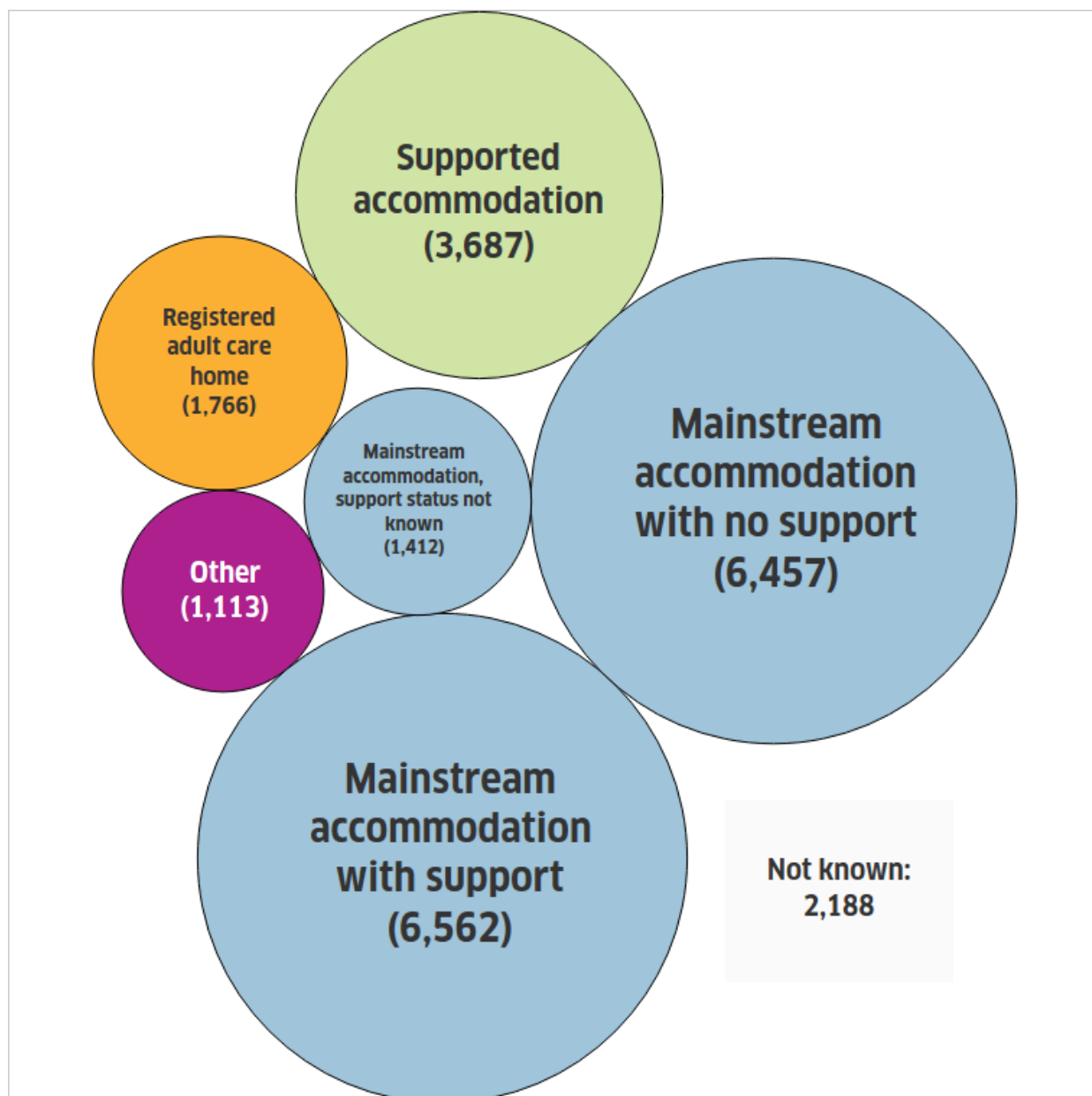
Information is collected on the types of accommodation in which people with learning disabilities live. There are a variety of types of accommodation recorded under this data item. Definitions can be found in the 2017 guidance notes. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

In 2017, 32 local authorities provided accommodation type information on 20,998 adults across Scotland.

In 2017, 62.2% of all adults with learning disabilities lived in mainstream accommodation, 15.9% lived in supported accommodation and 7.6% lived in registered adult care homes.

Figure 11 shows that in 2017, over a quarter (6,457) of **all adults** with learning disabilities lived in mainstream accommodation without support. A further 6,562 lived in mainstream accommodation with support and 1,412 lived in mainstream accommodation but their support status was not known. There were 3,687 adults who lived in supported accommodation and 1,766 adults who lived in a registered adult care home. There were also 1,113 adults who lived in 'other' accommodation.

**Figure 11: Accommodation type for adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2017)**



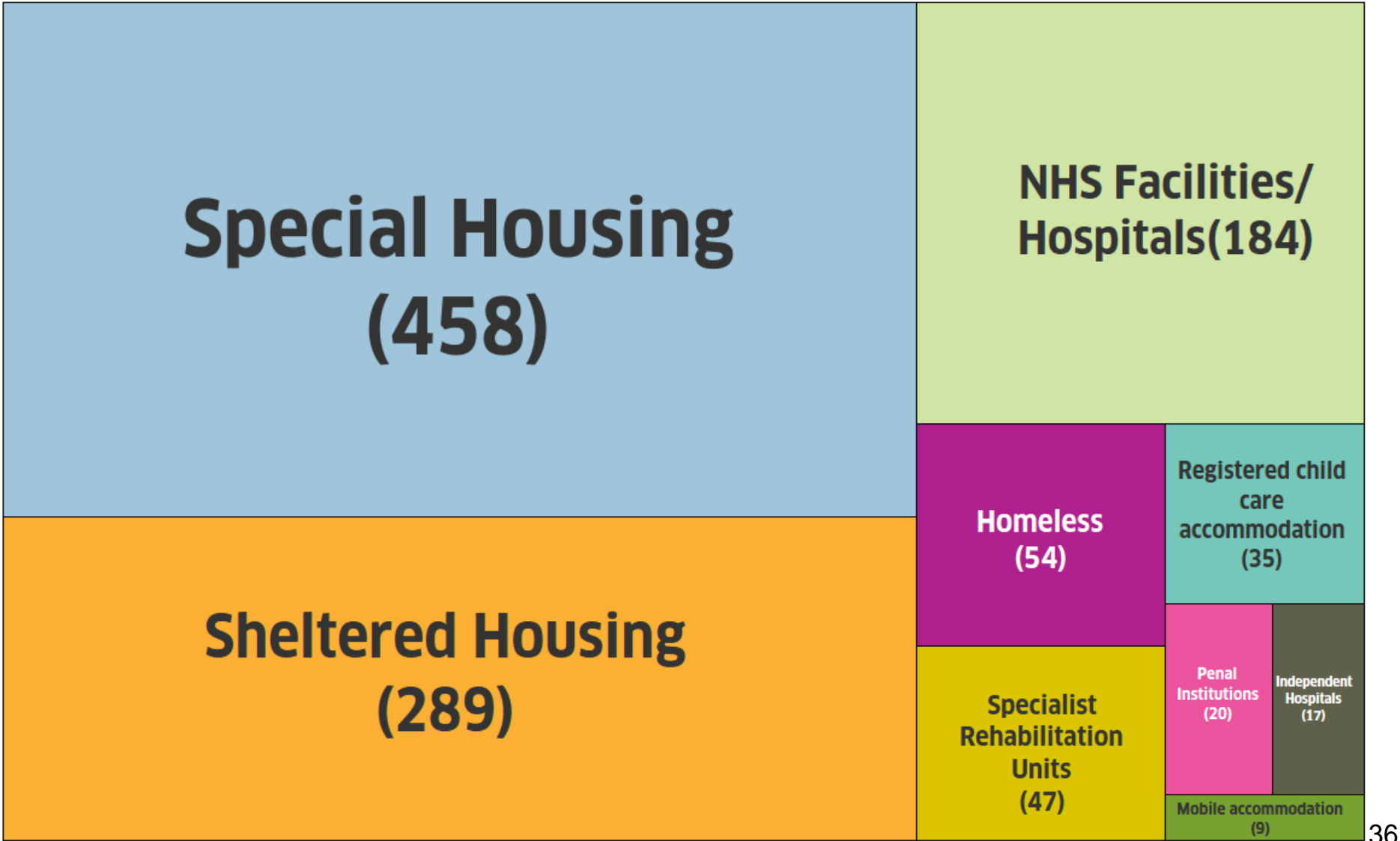
### **‘Other’ accommodation**

Of the 1,113 adults with learning disabilities who live in ‘other’ accommodation:

- 458 adults live in special accommodation (41.2%);
- 289 adults live in sheltered housing (26.0%);
- 184 adults live in NHS facilities/hospitals (16.5%);
- 54 adults are homeless (4.9%);
- 20 adults live in penal institutions (1.8%);

- 35 adults live in registered child care accommodation (3.1%);
- 47 adults in specialist rehabilitation units (4.2%);
- 17 adults live in independent hospitals (1.5%).
- 9 adults live in mobile accommodation (0.8%).

Figure 12: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who live in ‘Other’ accommodation types (2017)



Adults who are the only person with learning disabilities living in their accommodation tend to live in mainstream accommodation<sup>13</sup>. Of all the adults who are recorded as the only person with learning disabilities in their accommodation, 9,927 adults (42.8%) live in mainstream accommodation. Around 1 in 8 adults (1,521 adults, 11.9%) who are the only person with learning disabilities in their accommodation live in supported accommodation. Just under half (748 adults, 46.8%) of all adults who live with four or more other people with learning disabilities live in a registered adult care home.

Table 5 shows that adults who live in registered adult care homes are more likely to live with more than one other person with learning disabilities than adults who live in mainstream or supported accommodation. In 2017, 9.6% of adults in mainstream accommodation lived with one or more other people. This figure rose to 46.2% for adults who live in supported accommodation and 63.0% for adults who live in registered adult care homes.

**Table 5: Accommodation type by number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who are in the same accommodation (2017)**

|   | Only person   | One other person | Two other people | Three other people | Four + other people | Not known    | Total         |
|---|---------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Mainstream accommodation: with no support | 4,759         | 340              | 62               | 19                 | 41                  | 1,237        | 6,458         |
| with support                              | 4,479         | 519              | 138              | 68                 | 78                  | 1,280        | 6,562         |
| support status Not known                  | 689           | 62               | 19               | 4                  | 30                  | 608          | 1,412         |
| Supported accommodation                   | 1,521         | 585              | 319              | 270                | 528                 | 464          | 3,687         |
| Registered adult care home                | 231           | 105              | 80               | 179                | 748                 | 423          | 1,766         |
| Other accommodation                       | 598           | 78               | 34               | 36                 | 137                 | 230          | 1,113         |
| Not known                                 | 545           | 168              | 32               | 28                 | 37                  | 1,378        | 2,188         |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>12,822</b> | <b>1,857</b>     | <b>684</b>       | <b>604</b>         | <b>1,599</b>        | <b>5,620</b> | <b>23,186</b> |

<sup>13</sup> The person lives in their own home or in the family home.

## **6: Local Area Co-ordination**

In 2013, the collection of data on the availability of LAC services was dropped from the dataset and the focus shifted to use of LAC services. Information is still recorded on areas where Local Area Co-ordination services are not available. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

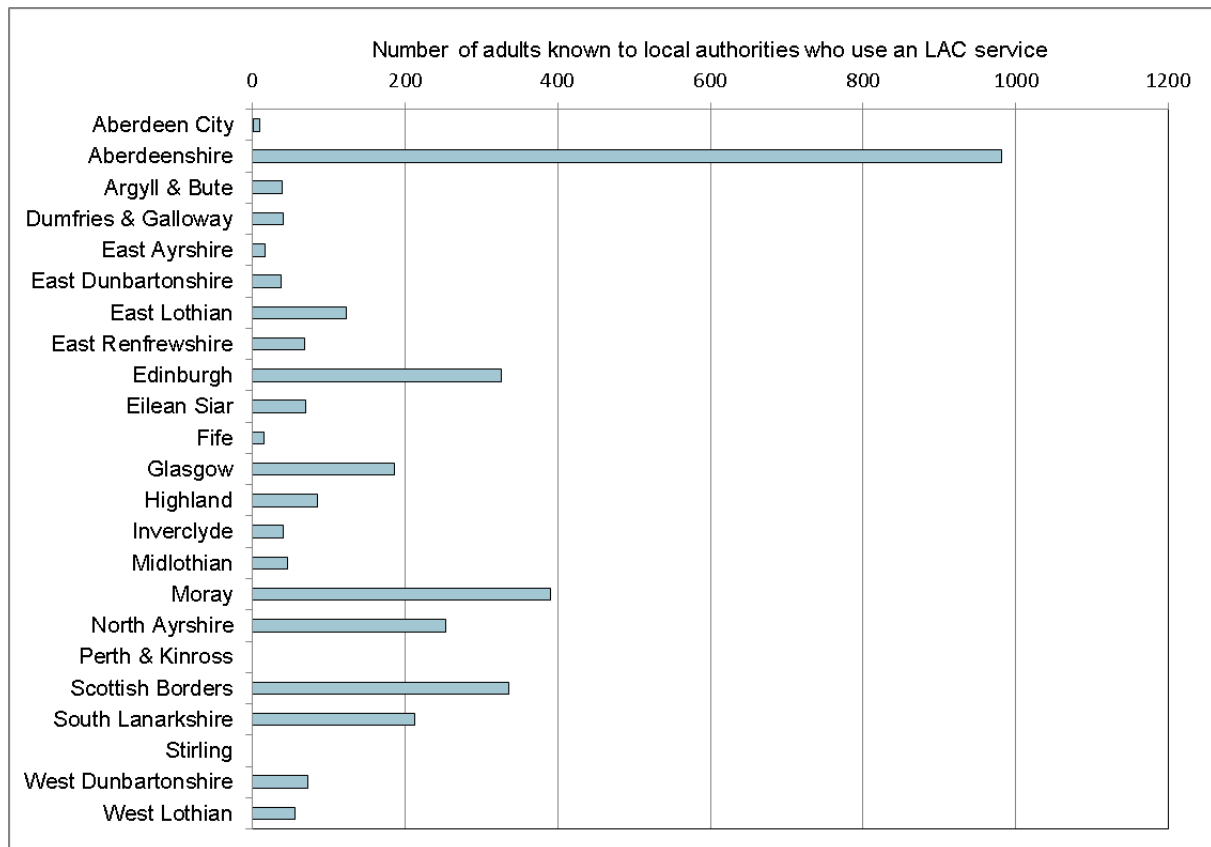
In 2017, 32 local authorities provided local area co-ordination usage information on 23,186 adults across Scotland. There is no unknown information for this data item because it comes from a single source within each local authority; the LAC team. A person is either using an LAC service and recorded as such by the LAC team or they are not.

### **LAC use**

14.7% of all adults with learning disabilities in Scotland used an LAC service in 2017. Of the adults who live in areas where LAC services are available (21 local authorities) 20.7% use this service. There were 6,536 adults living in areas where there were no LAC services available to them. Information on why people did not use LAC services was not collected. However, it is likely that personal choice and LAC capacity are amongst the deciding factors.

Figure 13 shows the number of adults who use an LAC service within each local authority. More detailed information about LAC service use is published in Annex B, Table B6.

**Figure 13: Use of Local Area Co-ordination services (2017)<sup>14</sup>**



<sup>14</sup> Moray and South Lanarkshire Councils do not have LAC teams but do offer locally defined services with comparable functions. See Table B6 in Annex B for more information about this.

## 7: Personal Life Plans/Person Centred Plans

A PLP is an assessment and/or support plan for continual listening and learning, focused on what is important to someone now and for the future, and is implemented in alliance with family and friends.

A PLP should meet the following **primary criteria**:

- The plan records the person's wishes and the outcomes they want to achieve in their life.
- It specifies actions/support to achieve these outcomes.
- The plan has been developed with the active engagement of the person who is in control of how the plan is developed.
- The person is at the centre, and has decided who to invite to be part of the planning process.
- It has also engaged support of family, friends or workers and there is a joint responsibility for achieving the goals set out.
- The person and their team have been supported by a skilled and experienced facilitator, and the plan recorded in a format best suited for the individual.
- The person centred planning meeting or process should agree on a review date and record this in the plan, preferably at least every 12 months.

It can refer to a variety of tools, including but not limited to:

- Single shared assessment
- Person centred planning (e.g. MAP, PATH, Essential Lifestyle Plan)
- Individual Support Plan
- Transition Plan
- Vocational profile
- Plan for care profile approach
- Outcome based support plans

'The keys to life' endorses the use of person centred planning in the implementation of various recommendations and local authorities were asked to record how many adults have Personal Life Plans. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will



be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

In 2017, 32 local authorities provided personal life plan information on 19,063 (82.2%) adults across Scotland.

In 2017, 18,610 adults had been asked if they wanted a PLP. Of those adults who had been asked, 15,947 (79.9%) had one.

**Table 6: Personal Life Plan (PLP) uptake by adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities by age (2017)**

|              | Has a PLP     | Does not have a PLP | Has not been asked | Not known    | Total         |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 16-17        | 89            | 41                  | 63                 | 70           | 263           |
| 18-20        | 895           | 293                 | 54                 | 399          | 1,641         |
| 21-34        | 4,765         | 1,309               | 129                | 1,398        | 7,601         |
| 35-44        | 2,214         | 573                 | 63                 | 534          | 3,384         |
| 45-54        | 2,745         | 637                 | 58                 | 679          | 4,119         |
| 55-64        | 2,428         | 522                 | 55                 | 567          | 3,572         |
| 65+          | 1,739         | 359                 | 26                 | 474          | 2,598         |
| Not known    | 0             | 1                   | 5                  | 2            | 8             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>14,875</b> | <b>3,735</b>        | <b>453</b>         | <b>4,123</b> | <b>23,186</b> |

## 8: Advocacy

Advocacy services enable people to have a greater say in decisions which affect their lives. Advocacy services also play a key role in allowing people with learning disabilities to fulfil an active role in their community and help shape future services. Furthermore, improving access to advocacy services was a recommendation of 'The same as you?'<sup>15</sup> and is also a recommendation of 'The keys to life'<sup>16</sup>. The provision of independent advocacy is a legal requirement of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.<sup>17</sup> Every person with a mental disorder (as defined in section 328 of the Act) has a right to independent advocacy. This includes people with learning disabilities. NHS health boards and local authorities are obliged to work together to provide independent advocacy and to ensure individuals have the opportunity to use these services.<sup>18</sup>

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance<sup>19</sup> explains the different forms of advocacy which are available:

- **Self-advocacy** – this is when a group of people, who have an experience of using services, decides collectively about issues they would like to campaign on.
- **Citizen advocacy** – this is when ordinary people in the community work with someone who needs the support of an advocate. Citizen advocates may work with the same person for many years.
- **Collective or group advocacy** – this happens when a particular group of people come together and support each other around a common cause.

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<sup>15</sup> Source: 'The same as you?' page 35 paragraph 20:  
<http://www.gov.scot/resource/doc/1095/0001661.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Source: 'The keys to life' Recommendation 32:  
<http://www.gov.scot/resource/0042/00424389.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/asp\\_20030013\\_em\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/asp_20030013_em_1)

<sup>18</sup> Patrick, H. & Smith, N. (2009), 'Adult Protection and the Law in Scotland', Bloomsbury (page 112).

<sup>19</sup> Taken from [www.siaa.org.uk](http://www.siaa.org.uk)

- **Peer advocacy** – this is when someone with very similar life experiences to the person who needs support acts as their advocate.
- **Professional advocacy** – some professional advocates are paid and some are unpaid.

Advocacy is the only item within the data collection for which data are collected on both an individual and an aggregate level. This is due to the fact that it may not be appropriate for external advocacy agencies to share sensitive data with local authorities. As a result, local authorities primarily aimed to return individual level advocacy information but provided aggregate advocacy figures when individual level information was not available.

In 2017, 14 local authorities returned individual level advocacy data and 8 local authorities returned aggregate data.

People First Scotland regularly report a membership of over 1,000 people. This means the total number of adults with learning disabilities who exercise self-advocacy is an underestimate.

We now know individual level information on whether 8,999 adults (38.8% of all adults) use advocacy services.

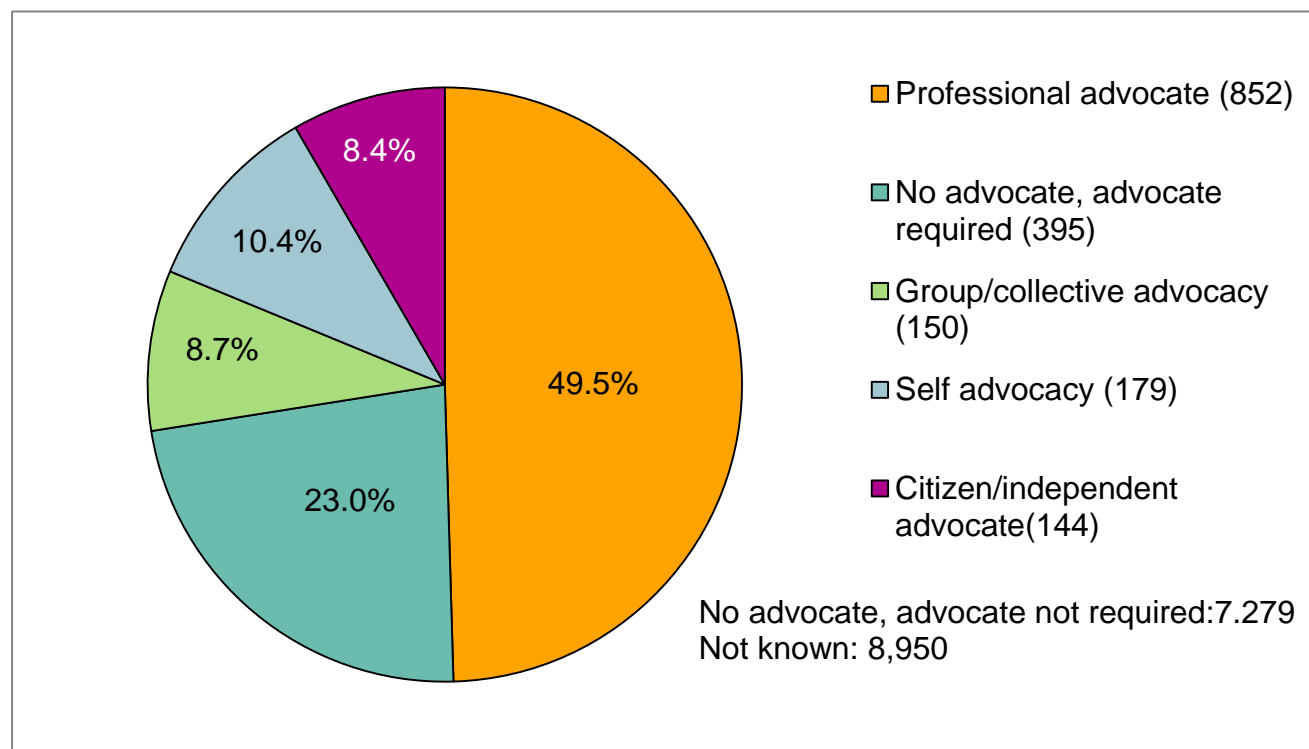
There were 1,325 adults who were recorded as using an advocacy service in 2017. This is 5.7% of **all adults** with learning disabilities.

The full individual level and aggregate data are available in tables B8 and B9 of Annex B. The following is a discussion of the individual level data only.

Reported advocacy use falls into the following categories:

- 7,279 adults do not use an advocate and do not need one;
- 395 adults do not use an advocate but do require one;
- 852 adults use a professional advocate;
- 150 adults use group/collective advocacy;
- 179 adults exercise self-advocacy;
- 144 adults use a citizen/independent advocate.

**Figure 14: Use of advocacy by adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2017)**



## 9: Employment opportunities

Local authorities were asked to provide information on the employment status of adults with learning disabilities. The numbers of adults included are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

In 2017, 31 local authorities provided employment information on 14,085 adults across Scotland (60.7% of all adults).

There were 1,219 adults in employment, which is 5.3% of all adults known to local authorities. A further 12,866 were not in employment (55.5%) and information was not recorded for 9,101 adults (39.3%). These figures are in comparison to an overall Scottish employment rate of 75.2%.<sup>20</sup>

**Table 6: Employment opportunities for adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2017)**

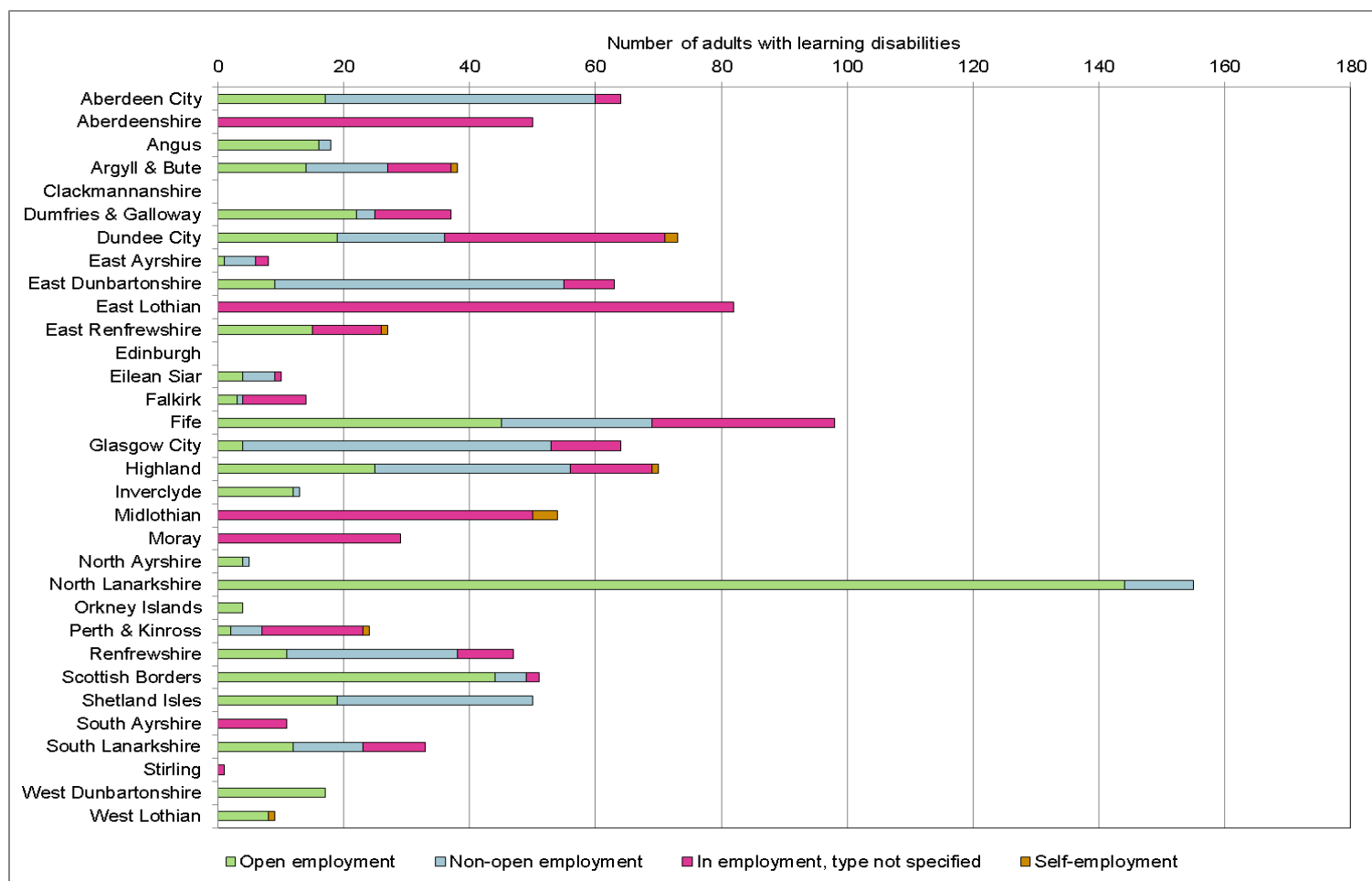
| Employment status | Number of adults | Total as a % of all adults |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| In employment     | 1,219            | 5.3                        |
| Not in employment | 12,866           | 55.5                       |
| Not known         | 9,101            | 39.3                       |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>23,186</b>    | <b>100.0</b>               |

Figure 15 overleaf shows the numbers of adults who have a job in each local authority area. Please see Annex B for detailed employment statistics at a local authority level.

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<sup>20</sup> [https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/gor/2013265931/subreports/nrhi\\_time\\_series/report.aspx](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/gor/2013265931/subreports/nrhi_time_series/report.aspx)

**Figure 15: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in employment by local authority area (2017)<sup>21</sup>**



<sup>21</sup> Due to small data size, the number of adults who have a job has been subjected to disclosure control (controlled rounding).

## Open and non-open employment opportunities

Information is also recorded on whether or not the employment opportunity is open or non-open. The definitions of open and non-open employment are:

- **Open employment** – employment in a workplace that is not specifically set up for people with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities are paid the going rate for the job.
- **Non-open employment** – the workplace is specifically set up for people with learning disabilities. Non-open posts are not usually advertised.

Of those in employment,<sup>22</sup> over a third, 38.6% (471 adults), were recorded as being in open employment and 27.2% (331 adults) were in non-open employment. A further 33.3% (406 adults) were in employment but it was not specified whether it was open or non-open. The remaining 0.9% (11 adults) were self-employed.

**Table 7: Type of employment opportunities for adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2017)**

|                                    | Number of adults | Percent (%)  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Open employment                    | 471              | 38.6         |
| Non-open employment                | 331              | 27.2         |
| In employment - type not specified | 406              | 33.3         |
| Self employed                      | 11               | 0.9          |
| <b>Total in employment</b>         | <b>1,219</b>     | <b>100.0</b> |

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<sup>22</sup> Adults in employment and not including those who are solely in training for employment.

## Time spent in employment

Information was also collected on the number of hours which adults with learning disabilities worked in 2017:

- 371 adults (30.4% of all adults with employment opportunities) worked **under 16 hours per week**.
- 422 adults (34.6% of all adults with employment opportunities) worked **16 hours per week or more**.

A further 426 adults (34.9% of all adults with employment opportunities) were in employment but the number of hours they worked is not known.

**Table 8: Time spent in employment by adults with learning disabilities (2017)**

|                                   | Number of adults | Percent (%)  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Under 16 hours per week           | 371              | 30.4         |
| 16 hours per week and over        | 422              | 34.6         |
| In employment but hours not known | 426              | 34.9         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>1,219</b>     | <b>100.0</b> |

## Employment and training for employment

In 2017, local authorities were asked to report on individuals who are in employment and in training for employment (T.F.E herein) separately. The training component of T.F.E. may take place in a college or the workplace.

In 2017, 31 local authorities provided employment information on 10,970 adults across Scotland (47.3% of all adults known to local authorities).

There were 981 adults in T.F.E, which is 4.2% of all adults known to local authorities. A further 9,989 were not in T.F.E (43.1%) and information was not recorded for 12,216 adults (52.7%).

Of the 981 adults in T.F.E there were 5.1% (50) also in employment, 80.3% not in employment (788) and 14.6% (143) who did not have an employment status recorded.



**Table 9: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who were in training while in employment (2017)**

| Employment Status | Person is in training for employment | Person in not in training for employment | Not recorded  | Total         |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| In employment     | 50                                   | 512                                      | 657           | 1,219         |
| Not in employment | 788                                  | 9,388                                    | 2,690         | 12,866        |
| Not recorded      | 143                                  | 89                                       | 8,869         | 9,101         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>981</b>                           | <b>9,989</b>                             | <b>12,216</b> | <b>23,186</b> |

## Employment and volunteering

In 2017, local authorities were asked to report on individuals who are in employment and volunteering separately. The training component of T.F.E. may take place in a college or the workplace.

In 2017, 30 local authorities provided volunteering information on 10,484 adults across Scotland (45.2% of all adults known to local authorities).

There were 903 adults in volunteering, which is 3.9% of all adults known to local authorities. A further 9,581 were not in T.F.E (41.3%) and information was not recorded for 12,702 adults (54.8%).

Of the 903 adults in volunteering there were 10.5% (95) also in employment, 79.8% not in employment (721) and 9.6% (87) who did not have an employment status recorded.

**Table 10: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who were volunteering while in employment (2017)**

| Employment Status | Person is in volunteering | Person in not in volunteering | Not recorded  | Total         |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| In employment     | 95                        | 475                           | 649           | 1,219         |
| Not in employment | 721                       | 9,032                         | 3,113         | 12,866        |
| Not recorded      | 87                        | 74                            | 8,940         | 9,101         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>903</b>                | <b>9,581</b>                  | <b>12,702</b> | <b>23,186</b> |

## 10: Day centres and alternative opportunities

Information is collected on whether or not adults with learning disabilities attend a day centre and the number of hours they attend each week. Information was also collected on whether or not adults with learning disabilities use alternative opportunities. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

An alternative opportunity is a regular and pre-planned non-centre based activity which the person has chosen to take part in. In 2017, alternative opportunities included, but were not limited to, lifelong learning, training (this does not include training for employment, which is covered in Section 9 of this report), sport or leisure, recreation and voluntary work. Alternative opportunities may include episodes where the person drops into a centre and then goes to a regular day opportunity outside the centre. Day trips outwith the centre to local places are not counted as alternative day opportunities.

In 2017, 31 local authorities<sup>23</sup> provided day centre information on 18,612 (80.3%) adults across Scotland and 31 local authorities<sup>24</sup> provided alternative opportunities information on 17,282 (74.5%) adults across Scotland.

In 2017, there were 4,401 adults with learning disabilities who attended a day centre. This is 19.0% of **all adults** with learning disabilities.

There were 14,211 adults who did not attend a day centre in 2017. This is 61.3% of **all adults**.

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<sup>23</sup> North Lanarkshire did not return any data for this. See Table B12a in Annex B for further information.

<sup>24</sup> Aberdeenshire Council did not return any data for this. See Table B12b in Annex B for further information.

There were 8,076 adults who had alternative opportunities (regardless of whether or not they attended a day centre). This is 34.8% of **all adults**.

There were 9,206 adults who did not have alternative opportunities. This is 39.7% of **all adults**.

In 2017, 7,377 adults (31.8% of all adults) did not attend a day centre and did not use alternative opportunities. There were 5,650 adults who did not attend a day centre, but did use alternative opportunities (24.4%). There were 1,641 adults (7.1%) who attended a day centre and also had alternative opportunities. There were 1,817 adults (7.8%) who attended a day centre and did not have alternative opportunities.

Of those adults who attended a day centre:

- 1,104 adults (4.8% of all adults) attended fewer than 30 hours per week and did use alternative opportunities;
- 151 adults (0.7% of all adults) attended a day centre 30 hours or more per week and did use alternative opportunities;
- 1,196 adults (5.2% of all adults) attended a day centre fewer than 30 hours per week and did not have alternative opportunities;
- 482 adults (2.1% of all adults) attended a day centre more than 30 hours per week and did not use alternative opportunities.

**Table 11: Day centre attendance and alternative opportunity use by adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2017)**

|   | Has alternative opportunities | Does not have alternative opportunities | Not known    | Total         |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--------------|---------------|
| Attends a day centre fewer than 30 hours per week | 1,104                         | 1,196                                   | 191          | 2,491         |
| Attends a day centre 30 hours or more per week    | 151                           | 482                                     | 66           | 699           |
| Attends a day centre, time not specified          | 386                           | 139                                     | 686          | 1,211         |
| Does not attend a day centre                      | 5,650                         | 7,377                                   | 1,184        | 14,211        |
| Not known   | 785                           | 12                                      | 3,777        | 4,574         |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>8,076</b>                  | <b>9,206</b>                            | <b>5,904</b> | <b>23,186</b> |

## Time spent attending day centres

Of those adults who attended a day centre, 689 (15.6%) attended fewer than 10 hours per week. 1,047 (23.8%) of adults who attended a day centre in 2015 did so for between 10 and 30 hours per week. 699 (15.9%) adults who attended a day centre did so for thirty hours or more per week.

**Table 12: Time spent by adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities attending a day centre (2017)**

|                              |                     | Number of adults | Percent (%)  |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Attends a day centre:        | fewer than 10 hours | 689              | 3.0          |
|                              | 10-19.75 hours      | 1,047            | 4.5          |
|                              | 20-29.75 hours      | 755              | 3.3          |
|                              | 30+ hours           | 699              | 3.0          |
|                              | time not specified  | 1,211            | 5.2          |
| Does not attend a day centre |                     | 14,211           | 61.3         |
| Not known                    |                     | 4,574            | 19.7         |
| <b>Total</b>                 |                     | <b>23,186</b>    | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 13 shows that in general the fewer hours an adult attends a day centre, the more likely they are to use alternative opportunities. Almost two thirds of adults who attend a day centre fewer than 10 hours per week use alternative opportunities. Alternative opportunities use dropped to 23.9% for adults who attend a day centre 30 hours per week or more.

**Table 13: Time spent by adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities attending a day centre (hours per week) and whether or not they use alternative opportunities (2017)**

|  | Has alternative opportunities | Does not have alternative opportunities | Total        |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Attends fewer than 10 hours              | 324                           | 295                                     | 619          |
| Attends 10-19.75 hours                   | 516                           | 439                                     | 955          |
| Attends 20-29.75 hours                   | 264                           | 462                                     | 726          |
| Attends 30 hours or more                 | 151                           | 482                                     | 633          |
| Attends a day centre, time not specified | 386                           | 139                                     | 525          |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1,641</b>                  | <b>1,817</b>                            | <b>3,458</b> |

## 11: Further education

Local authorities were asked to provide information on the number of adults with learning disabilities in further education. The numbers of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities and reported to SCLD. There will be adults with learning disabilities not known to local authorities and possibly some who are known but not reported. These adults are not included in the reported figures.

In 2017, 27 local authorities<sup>25</sup> provided further education information on 12,675 adults across Scotland (54.6% of all adults).

In 2015 there were 1,434 adults in further education. This represents 6.2% of **all adults** with learning disabilities.

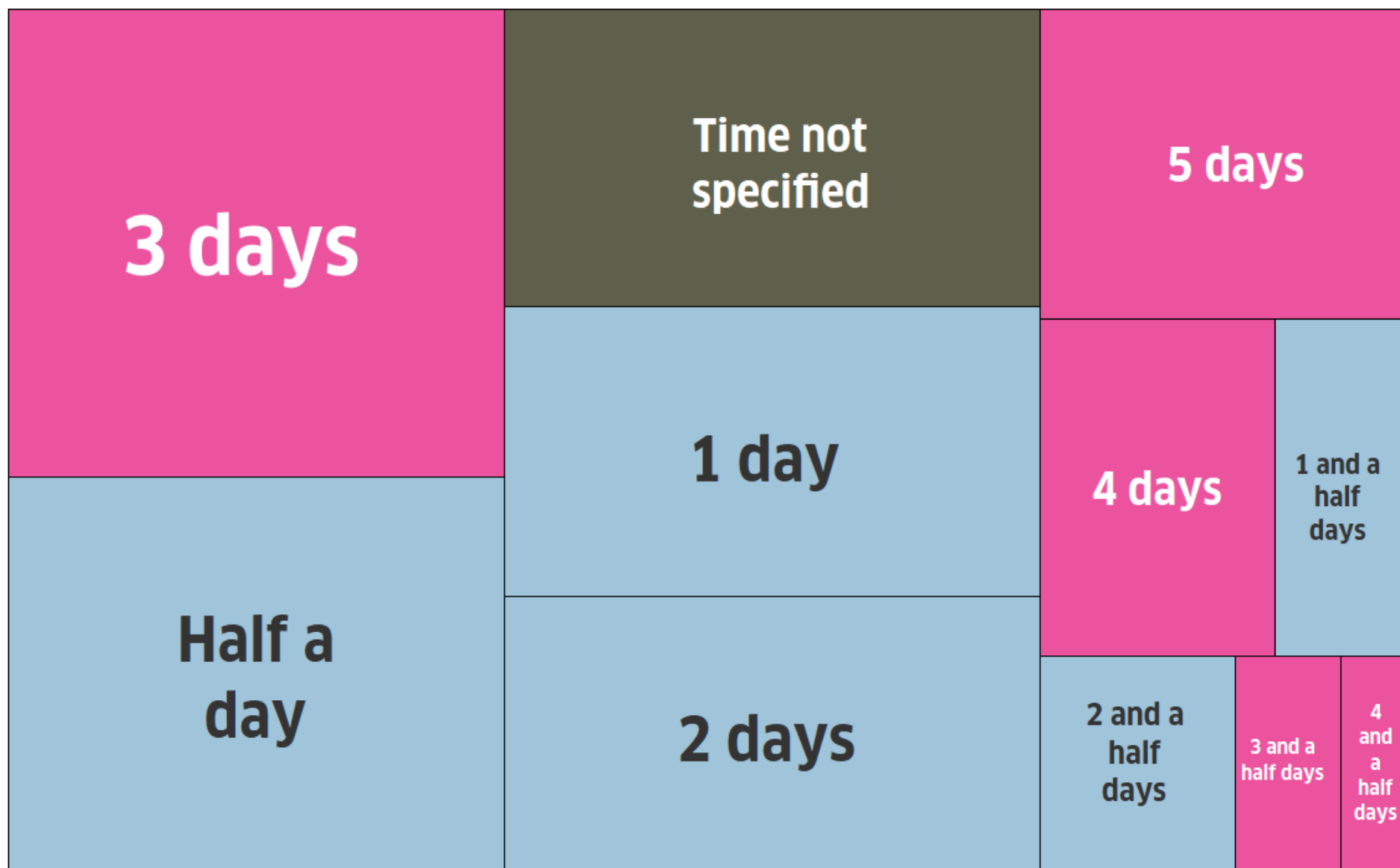
Of those adults for whom further education information was known in 2017:

- 11,241 adults were not enrolled in further education;
- 695 adults attended a further education course 2.5 days per week or fewer;
- 550 adults attended a further education course 3 days per week or more;
- 189 adults attended a further education course for an unspecified amount of time.

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<sup>25</sup> Aberdeenshire Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Glasgow City Council, Moray Council and Stirling Council did not provide data for this data item.

Figure 17: Number of days spent per week in further education by adults with learning disabilities (2017)



As shown by Table 14, 519 adults aged 16-34 made up the great majority (94.4%) of adults with learning disabilities who attended further education 3 days a week or more.

Of the adults who attend a further education course 3 days or more per week:

- 222 adults (40.4%) were aged 16-20;
- 297 adults (54.0%) were aged 21-34;
- 14 adults (2.5%) were aged 35 and over.

Of the adults who attend a further education course 2.5 days or fewer per week:

- 62 adults (8.9%) were aged 16-20;
- 343 adults (49.4%) were aged 21-34;
- 289 adults (41.6%) were aged 35 and over.

**Table 14: Further education status of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities by age group (2017)**

|              | In education,<br>2.5 days or<br>fewer | In education,<br>3 or more<br>days | In education,<br>amount of<br>time not<br>specified | Not currently<br>in education | Not known     | Total         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 16-17        | 0                                     | 20                                 | 0   | 30                            | 209           | 263           |
| 18-20        | 62                                    | 202                                | 47  | 473                           | 857           | 1,641         |
| 21-34        | 343                                   | 297                                | 92  | 3,511                         | 3,358         | 7,601         |
| 35-44        | 106                                   | 17                                 | 20  | 1,797                         | 1,444         | 3,384         |
| 45-54        | 95                                    | 9                                  | 11  | 2,158                         | 1,846         | 4,119         |
| 55-64        | 62                                    | 5                                  | 10  | 1,863                         | 1,635         | 3,572         |
| 65+          | 26                                    | 0                                  | 9   | 1,409                         | 1,154         | 2,598         |
| Not known    | 0                                     | 0                                  | 0   | 0                             | 8             | 8             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>695</b>                            | <b>550</b>                         | <b>189</b>  | <b>11,241</b>                 | <b>10,511</b> | <b>23,186</b> |

**Note:**

\*Due to small data size, some values have been subjected to disclosure control (controlled rounding).

### 3. Further information on this release

The Statistics Release is available on the Internet by accessing the SCLD website: <http://www.sclld.org.uk/learning-disability-statistics-scotland/>

Further information on adults with learning disabilities is available from the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability website: [www.sclld.co.uk](http://www.sclld.co.uk)

Independent Government Statisticians were involved in the quality assurance of this release.

This statistics release was published on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Previous Statistics Releases, including the aggregate collections published prior to 2008, are available at:  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/Publications](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/Publications)

Further details on the data presented from previous Statistics Releases are available on request from the address given below:

*Community Care Statistics*  
*Basement Rear*  
*St Andrew's House*  
*Edinburgh*  
*EH1 3DG*  
Tel: 0131 244 3777  
Email: [SWStat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SWStat@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)



## Background

The statistics in this publication were originally collected as a result of 'The same as you?' review of services for people with learning disabilities, published in May 2000.<sup>26</sup> The review proposed 29 recommendations for developing learning disability services and set out a programme for change over 10 years, including recommendation 9, which stated that local authorities should keep local records of the number of adults with learning disabilities in the area and the services they use in order to plan services to meet their needs. In 2001 the Scottish Government introduced an annual statistical return on adults with learning disabilities at both national and local authority level in order to monitor progress of 'The same as you?' policy. Between 2001 and 2007 the Scottish Government collected the data on adults with learning disabilities based on aggregate totals, with a view to monitoring the progress of 'The same as you?' policy. However, since 2008 the data has been collected on an individual basis by the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD) on behalf of the Scottish Government. 2017 was the ninth year statistics were collected on an individual level basis.<sup>27</sup>

## Methodology

In 2017, 32 local authorities provided data on adults with learning disabilities known to them as per the data guidance. Learning Disability Statistics Scotland changed collection methodology in the current collection to align with that of other national social care datasets. The data reported in this release relate to a single year reporting period from April 2016 to March 2017, compared to the three year reporting period used in previous collections.

In any given year, the statistical team requests data from all 32 Scottish local authorities on adults with learning disabilities known to them in Scotland. Individual level information is collected on people aged 16 and 17 who are not in full-time education and on all those aged 18 and over. This information is collated directly from the authorities' information management systems and is requested on an individual basis. These individuals' records are anonymised and provided to the dataset by the

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<sup>26</sup> The same as you?: <http://www.gov.scot/resource/doc/1095/0001661.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> With the exception of advocacy.

local authorities for each adult known to them, regardless of whether they are currently receiving a service. Strict guidelines are followed to ensure anonymity and no identifying details are provided to LDSS by local authorities. For more information on the protection of confidentiality, please see the SCLD website<sup>28</sup>.

Annual data guidance<sup>29</sup> to support the collection is developed in conjunction with local authorities prior to the annual data collection and is issued to standardise the data collection process and manage avoidable error. Authorities collect data in line with the codes and definitions given in the data guidance provided by SCLD. The definitions applied in 2017 are taken from the National Data Standards. Where a person lives in one authority and is funded by another, the funding local authority is asked to provide the data to minimise the risk of duplication. Where a person is funded by more than one local authority, discussion between local authorities is facilitated by the statistical team to determine which local authority should include that person in their data return. Local authorities are also asked to return commentary forms to provide explanation for any data discrepancies or changes. The content of these is taken into account at the point of analysis and may also be included in the report where necessary. In LDSS 2017 local authorities submitted their data via the ScotXed Team within Scottish Government using their ProcXed system. The 2017 LDSS Statistical Release is the second to be published under this new system of collection. The ProcXed system has in-built data validation checks that allows each local authority to ensure the data is valid before they submit it. Additionally the ProcXed system provides the local authorities with frequency tables and the opportunity to carry out their own analysis. Furthermore, the local authorities cannot submit data without it being approved by the SCLD team.

LDSS receive the data from the ScotXed team and it is then stored on a secure server and accessed only by the statistical team, all of whom ensure adherence to Data Protection Act legislation and Code of Practice confidentiality principles to maintain data security.

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<sup>28</sup> <http://www.sclد.org.uk/evidence-and-research/codes-practice/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.sclد.org.uk/learning-disability-statistics-scotland/data-guidance/>

Data is again checked for errors and consistency, such as coding errors, in the first instance. A number of data checks are employed on received datasets to ensure the data contained within is as accurate as possible and all obvious errors, for example in data processing, are corrected. This analysis forms the basis for the content of the annual statistical release. The statistical team undertake all data analysis in Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel.

While data completeness has been steadily improving, there is missing data both within individual records and in discrete data items. At present, no weighting or imputation is undertaken on missing data. However, in July 2013, the Methodology Advisory Service from the Office for National Statistics carried out a feasibility study on the data to determine whether or not statistical imputation would be appropriate measures to improve the quality of the data. The study found that the data are currently not suitable for statistical weighting or imputation and recommended that the quality of the data be improved at source. A further investigation into the feasibility of using a weighting schema was conducted by the Methodology Advisory Service from the Office for National Statistics in March 2016. This study found that the use of a weighting schema to tackle non-response bias and differential missingness would not be appropriate for short-term time series analysis. The ability to analyse LDSS data over longer periods of time and between years is of value however and further work to determine a methodology capable of doing this is ongoing. Further information can be found in the National Statistics Assessment section for further information of this report.

For more information on the methodology of the statistics collection, please see the methodology documents on the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability's website<sup>30</sup>.

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.sclld.org.uk/learning-disability-statistics-scotland/data-collection/>

## **14. Further analysis**

Throughout the coming year, we will produce and publish a number of reports based on further analysis of the data presented in this statistics release.

We will also be producing briefing papers on the information we collect. We would be happy to discuss the statistics with you or to develop a briefing session based on the contents of this release for your organisation.

We also offer a further analysis service to anyone who has a question that has not been answered in the report or if a more detailed analysis of the data items is required.

Please contact:

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## **15. Links to other data collections about people with learning disabilities in the UK**

Further information on the comparability of other statistical outputs can be found in the accompanying quality document 'Annex C'.

Quality Outcomes Framework Database, General Medical Services  
Contract Scotland  
Latest release: October, 2017

<https://www.gpcontract.co.uk/browse/UK/Learning%20Disabilities/17>

This database works to the definition provided in 'Valuing People Now: a new 3 year strategy for people with learning disabilities' (Department of Health, January 2009) which provided a similar definition to that used by Learning Disability Scotland Statistics. This collection includes adults aged 18 and over.

Local Authority Registers of People with Disabilities 2013-2014, The Welsh Government  
Latest release: 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-registers-people-disabilities/?lang=en>

This publication details people known to local authority registers however it is not clear which definition of learning disability is being used.

Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics: Mental Health and Learning Disability 2016/2017, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
Latest release: 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/mental-health-and-learning-disability-inpatients-201617>

It is not clear from this publication which definition of learning disability is being used. It appears that figures are based on the number of

individuals who were admitted to hospital under the learning disability programme of care and would include individuals of all ages.

People with Learning Disabilities in England 2015, Improving Health and Lives Learning Disabilities Observatory, Public Health England

Latest release: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/people-with-learning-disabilities-in-england-2015>

This publication employs a set of indicators to determine whether a person has a learning disability or not. These indicators can be found here: <http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/about/definition/detail>

UK Census 2011, National Records of Scotland

Latest release: The UK census included a question on the number of people who consider themselves to have a learning disability who live in the household for the first time in 2011.

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/en/censusresults/>

This publication requested that respondents, or the person completing the form on their behalf, self-identify as having a learning disability or not. These results will include people of all ages.

Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory

The Observatory has been set up to provide better information about the health and health care of people with learning disabilities and people with autism in Scotland. The Observatory will generate and translate information into knowledge designed to inform actions, practice and policy to benefit people with learning disabilities and people with autism

<https://www.sldo.ac.uk/>

