



Learning Disability Statistics Scotland, 2017

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Annex D: Methodology Impact Assessment

Audit

Learning Disability Statistics Scotland changed its 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, with a reporting period from April 2016 to March 2017, compared to the three year reporting period used in previous collections. Overall, there has been a decrease of 4,032 (14.8%) adults with a learning disability known to local authorities since the 2015 publication. 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'.

There has been a lack of consistency in local authority reporting this year, with varying levels of decreases, and some increases, seen across the population totals as displayed in Table 1. In light of such variation, each local authority was asked to advise LDSS of any local reasons that may offer explanation for their individual levels of fluctuation.

Aberdeenshire Council, East Ayrshire Council, East Lothian Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow City Council, Midlothian Council,

Orkney Islands Council and South Ayrshire Council did not offer a response.

Reporting Period

The change in the reporting period from three years to one year was cited by as a contributory factor in the decrease in totals reported by Argyll & Bute Council, Dundee City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Falkirk Council, Highland Council, Inverclyde Council, Renfrewshire Council, Scottish Borders Council, West Dunbartonshire Council and West Lothian Council.

East Dunbartonshire Council and Inverclyde Council reported taking the opportunity the methodological change provided to cleanse their databases to improve data quality and remove cases which should not be included in the return.

Additionally, North Lanarkshire Council, who reported a small increase in numbers this year, noted that they had moved to a one year reporting period two years ago, thus explaining why there was no decrease reported by North Lanarkshire.

Returning Period

The change in reporting period, and a delay in receiving the guidance, was cited by Falkirk Council as a contributory factor in their data fluctuation. In particular, the shifted reporting period meant Falkirk Council struggled to gather Further Education data, which resulted in the percentage of adults attending Further Education halving from 9.8% to 4.9%.

Inclusion Criteria

A number of local authorities noted that the change in reporting period meant a review of local inclusion criteria.

Due to the implementation of Self-directed Support within the area, Angus Council reported uncovering a number of service users who were no longer using or requiring a service. These cases were subsequently removed from the return.

Argyll & Bute Council reported they had no contact with adults with milder learning disabilities within the year which slightly impacted their overall numbers but had a more profound impact on their employment figures.

Eilean Siar, who had an increase in numbers, reported a number of clients who had been omitted from previous returns but should have been included. Having reinserted these cases, they are confident future numbers will be in line with this return.

Highland Council reported they had identified, and removed, a number of adults with learning disabilities with whom they no longer had any contact.

Local Service Issues

A number of local authorities cited internal service restructure as a contributory factor in their data fluctuation.

Aberdeen City Council reported their Local Area Coordination team had been working at half capacity, which meant it was more difficult to collate the data. This resulted in the percentage of adults using a Local Area Coordinator dropping from 5.9% to 0.9%.

City of Edinburgh Council reported they were no longer able to access employability data, which contributed to the decrease in their return and resulted in a nil return for employment.

Dumfries & Galloway Council, who had an increase in numbers, reported a number of adults known to the service who had only recently been officially diagnosed as having a learning disability and were added to the return this year for the first time.

Fife Council reported they were no longer able to access employment data as Supported Employment no longer sits within Social Work and they do not, at present, have confirmed agreements on sharing data between information management systems.

Moray Council reported staff changes as a barrier to acquiring employment data. This resulted in the percentage of adults in employment dropping from 9.5% to 6.8%.

Perth & Kinross Council reported they had recently moved from a centralised Learning Disability Team to a more generic locality based service, which means the number of people classed as Learning Disability clients by the Council may have dropped. Additionally, Perth & Kinross Council recently upgraded their Case Management System, which has allowed them to cleanse their data, resulting in a small reduction in reporting but an increase in data quality.

South Lanarkshire Council reported they no longer have access to employment data as the Supported Employment Team does not sit within Social Work.

West Lothian Council reported that a service re-design of their Employment Service, coupled with staff shortages, meant there was a delay in obtaining employment data. This resulted in the percentage of adults in employment dropping from 5.3% to 1.2%.

Table 1: Difference in response rate from LDSS 2015 to LDSS 2017

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Aberdeen City | 1,044 | 1,111 | -6.0% |
| Aberdeenshire | 982 | 1,314 | -25.3% |
| Angus | 518 | 571 | -9.3% |
| Argyll & Bute | 311 | 374 | -16.8% |
| Clackmannanshire | 321 | 290 | 10.7% |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 918 | 860 | 6.7% |
| Dundee City | 1,144 | 1,209 | -5.4% |
| East Ayrshire | 513 | 546 | -6.0% |
| East Dunbartonshire | 460 | 514 | -10.5% |
| East Lothian | 710 | 739 | -3.9% |
| East Renfrewshire | 272 | 253 | 7.5% |
| Edinburgh | 2,121 | 3,576 | -40.7% |
| Eilean Siar | 165 | 115 | 43.5% |
| Falkirk | 607 | 981 | -38.1% |
| Fife | 1,184 | 1,515 | -21.8% |
| Glasgow City | 2,190 | 2,316 | -5.4% |
| Highland | 1,039 | 1,223 | -15.0% |
| Inverclyde | 464 | 677 | -31.5% |
| Midlothian | 464 | 646 | -28.2% |
| Moray | 425 | 504 | -15.7% |
| North Ayrshire | 562 | 575 | -2.3% |
| North Lanarkshire | 1,758 | 1,690 | 4.0% |
| Orkney Islands | 79 | 92 | -14.1% |
| Perth & Kinross | 445 | 463 | -3.9% |
| Renfrewshire | 597 | 778 | -23.3% |
| Scottish Borders | 575 | 636 | -9.6% |
| Shetland Isles | 147 | 155 | -5.2% |
| South Ayrshire | 602 | 578 | 4.2% |
| South Lanarkshire | 998 | 1,051 | -5.0% |
| Stirling | 318 | 450 | -29.3% |
| West Dunbartonshire | 530 | 629 | -15.7% |
| West Lothian | 723 | 787 | -8.1% |
| Scotland | 23,186 | 27,218 | -14.8% |

Differences explained local authority by local authority

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Aberdeen City | 1,044 | 1,111 | -6.0% |

Aberdeen City Council reported their Local Area Coordination team had been working at half capacity, which meant it was more difficult to collate the data. This resulted in the percentage of adults using a Local Area Coordinator dropping from 5.9% to 0.9%.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Aberdeenshire | 982 | 1,314 | -25.3% |

Aberdeenshire Council did not offer a response.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Angus | 518 | 571 | -9.3% |

Due to the implementation of Self-directed Support within the area, Angus Council reported uncovering a number of service users who were no longer using or requiring a service. These cases were subsequently removed from the return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Argyll & Bute | 311 | 374 | -16.8% |

Argyll & Bute Council reported they had no contact with adults with milder learning disabilities within the year which slightly impacted their overall numbers but had a more profound impact on their employment figures.

Additionally, Argyll & Bute Council also reported that the change of reporting period contributory factor for the decrease in their return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Clackmannanshire | 321 | 290 | 10.7% |

Clackmannanshire Council reported that they had a higher number of referrals this year than previous years.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Dumfries & Galloway | 918 | 860 | 6.7% |

Dumfries & Galloway Council reported a number of adults known to the service who had only recently been officially diagnosed as having a learning disability and were added to the return this year for the first time.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Dundee City | 1,144 | 1,209 | -5.4% |

Dundee City Council reported that the change in reporting period was responsible for the drop in the return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| East Ayrshire | 513 | 546 | -6.0% |

East Ayrshire Council did not offer a response.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| East Dunbartonshire | 460 | 514 | -10.5% |

East Dunbartonshire Council reported taking the opportunity the methodological change provided to cleanse their databases to improve data quality and remove cases which should not be included in the return.

Additionally, East Dunbartonshire Council also reported that the change of reporting period contributory factor for the decrease in their return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| East Lothian | 710 | 739 | -3.9% |

East Lothian Council did not offer a response.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| East Renfrewshire | 272 | 253 | 7.5% |

East Renfrewshire Council did not offer a response.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Edinburgh | 2,121 | 3,576 | -40.7% |

City of Edinburgh Council reported they were no longer able to access employability data, which contributed to the decrease in their return and resulted in a nil return for employment.

Additionally, City of Edinburgh Council also reported that the change of reporting period contributory factor for the decrease in their return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Eilean Siar | 165 | 115 | 43.5% |

Eilean Siar reported a number of clients who had been omitted from previous returns but should have been included. Having reinserted these cases, they are confident future numbers will be in line with this return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Falkirk | 607 | 981 | -38.1% |

Falkirk Council cited the change in reporting period, and a delay in receiving the guidance as contributory factors in their data fluctuation. In particular, the shifted reporting period meant Falkirk Council struggled to gather Further Education data, which resulted in the percentage of adults attending Further Education halving from 9.8% to 4.9%.

Additionally, Falkirk Council also reported that the change of reporting period contributory factor for the decrease in their return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Fife | 1,184 | 1,515 | -21.8% |

Fife Council reported they were no longer able to access employment data as Supported Employment no longer sits within Social Work and they do not, at present, have confirmed agreements on sharing data between information management systems.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Glasgow City | 2,190 | 2,316 | -5.4% |

Glasgow City Council did not offer a response.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Highland | 1,039 | 1,223 | -15.0% |

Highland Council reported they had identified, and removed, a number of adults with learning disabilities with whom they no longer had any contact.

Additionally, Highland Council also reported that the change of reporting period contributory factor for the decrease in their return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Inverclyde | 464 | 677 | -31.5% |

Inverclyde Council reported taking the opportunity the methodological change provided to cleanse their databases to improve data quality and remove cases which should not be included in the return.

Additionally, Inverclyde Council also reported that the change of reporting period contributory factor for the decrease in their return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Midlothian | 464 | 646 | -28.2% |

Midlothian Council did not offer a response.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Moray | 425 | 504 | -15.7% |

Moray Council reported staff changes as a barrier to acquiring employment data. This resulted in the percentage of adults in employment dropping from 9.5% to 6.8%.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| North Ayrshire | 562 | 575 | -2.3% |

North Ayrshire Council reported that the change in reporting period was responsible for the drop in the return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| North Lanarkshire | 1,758 | 1,690 | 4.0% |

North Lanarkshire Council noted that they had moved to a one year reporting period two years ago, thus explaining why there was no decrease reported by North Lanarkshire.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Orkney Islands | 79 | 92 | -14.1% |

Orkney Islands Council did not offer a response.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Perth & Kinross | 445 | 463 | -3.9% |

Perth & Kinross Council reported they had recently moved from a centralised Learning Disability Team to a more generic locality based service, which means the number of people classed as Learning Disability clients by the Council may have dropped. Additionally, Perth & Kinross Council recently upgraded their Case Management System, which has allowed them to cleanse their data, resulting in a small reduction in reporting but an increase in data quality.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Renfrewshire | 597 | 778 | -23.3% |

Renfrewshire Council reported that the change in reporting period was responsible for the drop in the return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Scottish Borders | 575 | 636 | -9.6% |

Scottish Borders Council reported that the change in reporting period was responsible for the drop in the return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Shetland Isles | 147 | 155 | -5.2% |

Shetland Isles Council reported that the change in reporting period was responsible for the drop in the return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| South Ayrshire | 602 | 578 | 4.2% |

South Ayrshire Council did not offer a response.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| South Lanarkshire | 998 | 1,051 | -5.0% |

South Lanarkshire Council reported they no longer have access to employment data as the Supported Employment Team does not sit within Social Work.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Stirling | 318 | 450 | -29.3% |

Stirling Council reported that the change in reporting period was responsible for the drop in the return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|---------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| West Dunbartonshire | 530 | 629 | -15.7% |

West Dunbartonshire Council reported that the change in reporting period was responsible for the drop in the return.

| Local authority | 2017 Total | 2015 Total | % Difference |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| West Lothian | 723 | 787 | -8.1% |

West Lothian Council reported that a service re-design of their Employment Service, coupled with staff shortages, meant there was a delay in obtaining employment data. This resulted in the percentage of adults in employment dropping from 5.3% to 1.2%.

Additionally, West Lothian Council also reported that the change of reporting period contributory factor for the decrease in their return.