



## Learning Disability Statistics Scotland, 2019



Published: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

Learning Disability Statistics Scotland (LDSS) uses the term 'adults with learning disabilities' to include those adults with learning disabilities and/or on the autism spectrum who are known to local authorities in Scotland. Data users should note that LDSS 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 the LDSS team. The data reported in this release relate to a single year reporting period from April 2018 to March 2019.

North Ayrshire Council did not return any data about adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. To present a picture for Scotland, figures provided by this authority in 2018 have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City Council has provided aggregate figures for all topics data was requested for. Some local authorities were unable to provide data for some topics. These factors have limited some of the analyses that might otherwise be possible and where this is the case, is highlighted at appropriate points in the report. Detailed information on data completeness for each topic is noted under each topic heading. Information on the local authorities that provided information on each topic is also available on page 6 of this report.

For more information, please see the 'Background' and 'Methodology' sections of the Statistics Release and the accompanying quality documents.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> 'Annex C Data Quality Statement on Statistics Release: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland 2019', and 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2019' are available here: <https://www.sclld.org.uk/what-we-do/population-statistics/codes-practice/>

## Main Points

### Adults with learning disabilities known to Scottish local authorities<sup>2</sup>

- In 2019, there were 23,584 adults known to local authorities across Scotland. This equates to 5.2 people with learning disabilities per 1000 people in the general population.<sup>3</sup>

### Adults on the autism spectrum

- There were 4,383 adults identified as being on the autism spectrum.
- Of individual records submitted (3,934) 2,534 adults (64.4%) were known to have a learning disability and 1,115 adults (28.3%) were reported as not having a learning disability.<sup>4</sup>

### Where people live

- There were 14,584 people (61.8% of **all adults**) known to local authorities living in mainstream accommodation.
- A further 3,466 (14.7% of **all adults**) lived in supported accommodation.
- Just under a third of adults with learning disabilities (7,393; 31.3%) known to local authorities live with a family carer.
- Of those adults who lived with a family carer, 5,733 (77.5%) lived with a parent carer.

---

<sup>2</sup> Some adults are recorded as being on the autism spectrum but with no associated learning disability. For ease this report uses the term 'adults with learning disabilities' to include those adults with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum diagnoses.

<sup>3</sup> Calculated using 2018 mid-year population estimates (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-2018> It should be noted that the figure for the general population includes all adults aged 16-17 whereas LDSS only collects information on adults 16-17 who are not in full time education.

<sup>4</sup> This figure does not include Glasgow City, which provided aggregate level figures.

## **Employment, training and volunteering**

- There were 956 (4.1%) adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in employment.
- There were 464 (2%) adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in training for employment.
- 799 (3.4%) adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities were volunteering.
- There were 10,483 (44.4%) adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who were **not** in employment.
- There were 244 (1%) adults known to local authorities in non-open employment.
- There were 390 (1.7%) adults known to local authorities recorded as being in open employment.

## **Further education**

- There were 1,145 adults known to local authorities (4.9%) enrolled in further education.
- The number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities attending further education for 2.5 days per week or fewer was 526 (2.2% of **all adults**).
- The number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities attending further education for 3 days a week or more was 456 (1.9% of **all adults**).

## **Day centre**

- There were 4,296 (18.2%) adults known to local authorities who attended a day centre.

## **Contents**

Page 5: **Introduction**

Page 7: **Adults known to local authorities**

Page 16: **Adults on the autism spectrum**

Page 19: **Adults living with a family carer**

Page 23: **Accommodation type**

Page 26: **Advocacy**

Page 29: **Employment, training and volunteering**

Page 35: **Further education**

Page 36: **Day centres**

Page 39: **Information on the quality of the data**

Changes to the Collection

Data Collection Process and Methodology

Data Quality and Data Limitations

Data Completeness

Page 46: **Further information on this release**

Background

National Statistics Assessment

Data Usage

Development of LDSS

Page 51: **Further analysis**

Page 52: **Links to other information sources and publications about people with learning disabilities**

## Introduction

This Statistics Release is based on the fifteenth 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 and/or adults on the autism spectrum who are known to them.<sup>5</sup> Individual level information is collected on people:

- aged 16 and 17 who are not in full time school 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. Data users should note that LDSS 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 the LDSS team. The data reported in this release relate to a single year reporting period from April 2018 to March 2019.

In 2019, 30 local authorities returned **individual level** data to Learning Disability Statistics Scotland. North Ayrshire did not return any data for this collection. To present a picture for Scotland, figures provided by this authority in 2018 have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City Council provided **aggregate** figures for all topics data was requested for. Some local authorities were unable to provide data for some topics. These factors have limited some of the analyses that might otherwise be possible and, where this is the case, is highlighted at appropriate points in the report.

Detailed information on data completeness for each topic is noted under each topic heading, to assist data users to make an assessment around data accuracy.

---

<sup>5</sup> Some adults are recorded as being on the autism spectrum but with no associated learning disability. For ease this report uses the term 'adults with learning disabilities' to include those adults with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum diagnoses.

The table below shows where local authorities have not submitted data for a given data item for the 2019 data collection.

### Local authorities which have not returned specific data items (2019)

<b>Data items</b>	<b>Local Authorities who did not return data for this item*</b>
<b>Person service status</b>	Glasgow City, North Ayrshire
<b>Learning disability status</b>	Glasgow City, North Ayrshire
<b>Autism Spectrum Diagnosis</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>Local Authority and NHS Healthboard codes</b>	Glasgow City, North Ayrshire
<b>Gender</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>Year of birth</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>Ethnic group</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>Lives with family carer</b>	Aberdeenshire, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire
<b>Accommodation type</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>Advocacy</b>	City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Shetland Islands
<b>Employment status</b>	Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire
<b>Training</b>	Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh, Dumfries & Galloway, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire
<b>Volunteering</b>	Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire
<b>Further education</b>	Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh, Glasgow City, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire
<b>Day centre attendance</b>	North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire

\* North Ayrshire Council did not provide any data for the 2019 collection.<sup>6</sup> Glasgow City provided aggregate figures across all topics data was requested for.

Note: In 2019, 31 authorities returned data, either individual, or aggregate, to LDSS.

<sup>6</sup> The figures provided by North Ayrshire Council in 2018 have been used across this report and its annexes.

## 1: Adults known to local authorities

In 2019, local authorities reported on the number of adults with learning disabilities known to them, regardless of the services they receive. The total number of adults known to local authorities in Scotland in 2019 was **23,584**.<sup>7</sup>

The number of adults included in LDSS are those adults with learning disabilities **known to local authorities** and reported to the LDSS team. 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.

Figure 1 below shows that at a national level, the number of adults with learning disabilities known to authorities per 1,000 of the population was 5.2.<sup>8</sup>

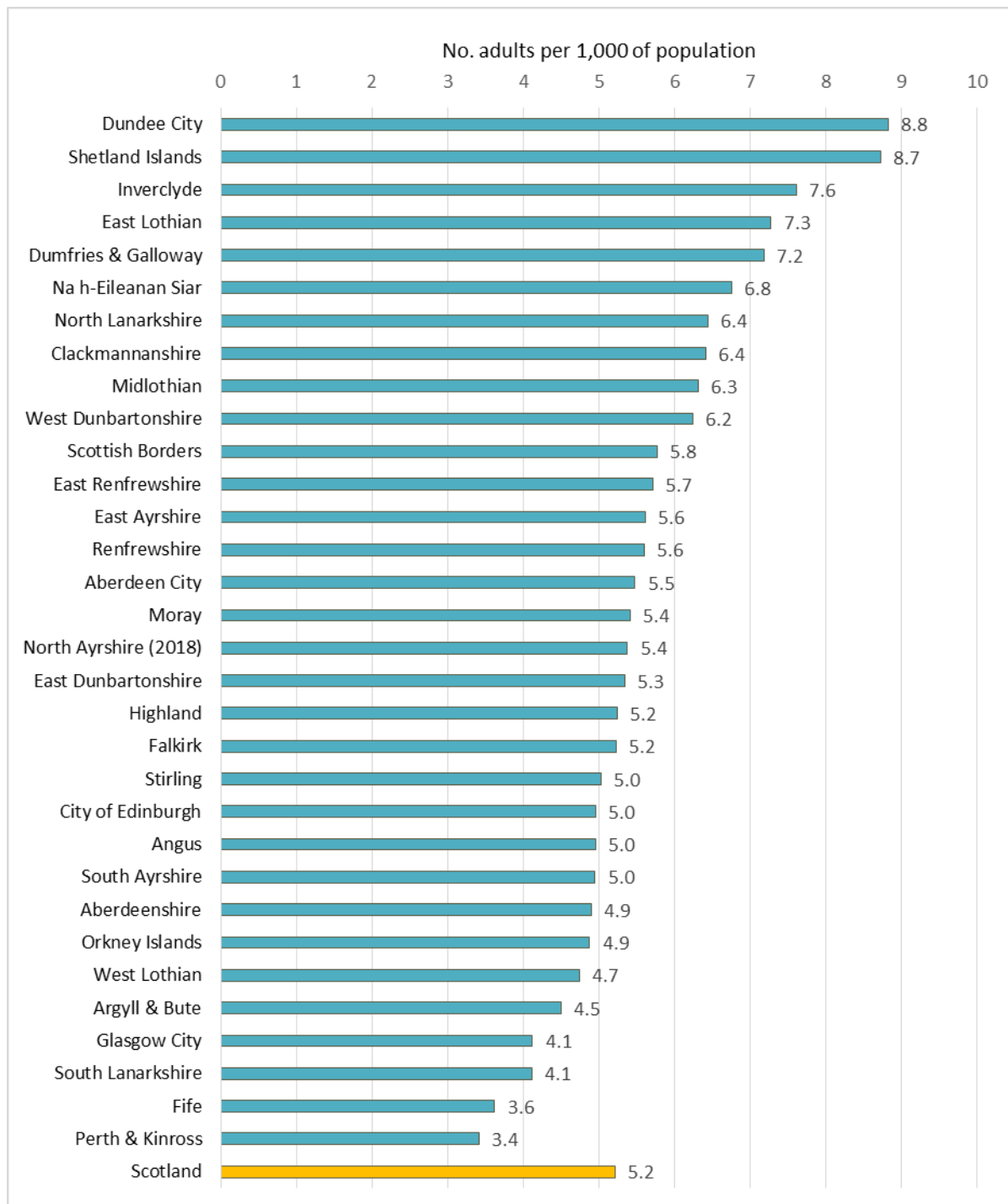
In 2019, Dundee City Council was the local authority with the most adults with learning disabilities per 1,000 of the population (8.8). Perth & Kinross Council was lowest with 3.4 per 1,000.

---

<sup>7</sup> In 2019, 30 local authorities provided individual level data on 20,808 adults across Scotland. North Ayrshire did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The data provided by this authority in 2018 (605 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City provided aggregate level data on 2,171 adults with learning disabilities.

<sup>8</sup> Calculated using 2018 mid-year population estimates (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-2018> It should be noted that the figure for the general population includes all adults aged 16-17 whereas LDSS only collects information on adults 16-17 who are not in full time education.

**Figure 1: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities per 1,000 population (2019)<sup>9</sup>**



<sup>9</sup>Calculated using 2018 mid-year population estimates (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-2018>



**Table 1: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2019)\*\***

Age	Male	Female	Other	Not Specified	Not Known	Total	Rate per 1,000 population*
16-17	307	143	0	0	0	450	4.1
18-20	1190	584	0	0	4	1,778	9.5
21-34	4914	2832	0	0	1	7,750	7.5
35-44	2004	1437	0	0	0	3,441	5.2
45-54	2316	1738	0	0	0	4,054	5.2
55-64	2017	1644	0	0	0	3,661	5.1
65 +	1241	1202	0	0	1	2,444	2.4
Not known	4	2	0	0	0	6	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,993</b>	<b>9,582</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23,584</b>	<b>5.2</b>

\*Calculated using 2018 mid-year population estimates (General Register Office for Scotland)

\*\*Values smaller than 5 have been disclosure controlled. This means that any value under 5 is rounded to either 0 or 5 and another value in the same row has been rounded to the nearest 5 to prevent differencing (calculating the suppressed value by subtracting from the total). Published zeros may or may not be true zeros

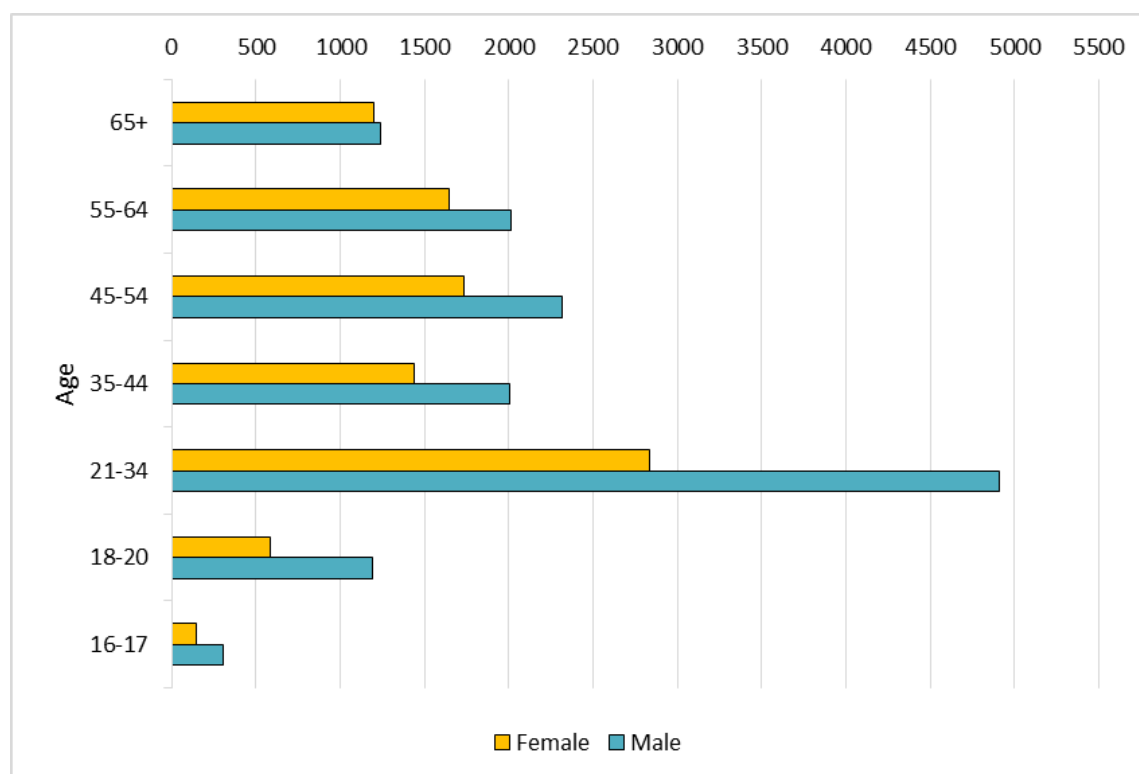
## Age and gender structure

The majority of adults with learning disabilities who are known to local authorities are men (13,993 adults, 59.3%). There are 9,582 women (40.6%) with learning disabilities known to local authorities.

Figure 2 below shows the number of men and women with learning disabilities known to local authorities by age. There are more men than women across all age categories, though the difference is less pronounced in the 65 and over category.

Data users should be aware that this data collection does not record information on those adults aged 16-17 who are in full time school education, so 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 authorities (2019)**



## Ethnicity

Of all adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in 2019, the majority (84.9%) were recorded as 'white'. Only 2% (477 people) were recorded as being from a black/minority ethnic background.<sup>10</sup>

Table 2 below shows the number of adults with learning disabilities by ethnicity. 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 (2019)**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of all adults</b>
White	20,019	84.9
Asian, Asian Scottish, Asian British ethnicity	288	1.2
Mixed ethnicity	73	0.3
Other ethnicity	68	0.3
Black, Black Scottish, Black British ethnicity	48	0.2
Not disclosed	448	1.9
Not known/recorded	2,640	11.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,584</b>	<b>100</b>

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

---

<sup>10</sup> Ethnicity was recorded for 20,944 adults with learning disabilities (88.8%) known to local authorities. This figure includes those who opted not to disclose their ethnicity.

## **Number of adults within NHS boards (does not include Glasgow City)**

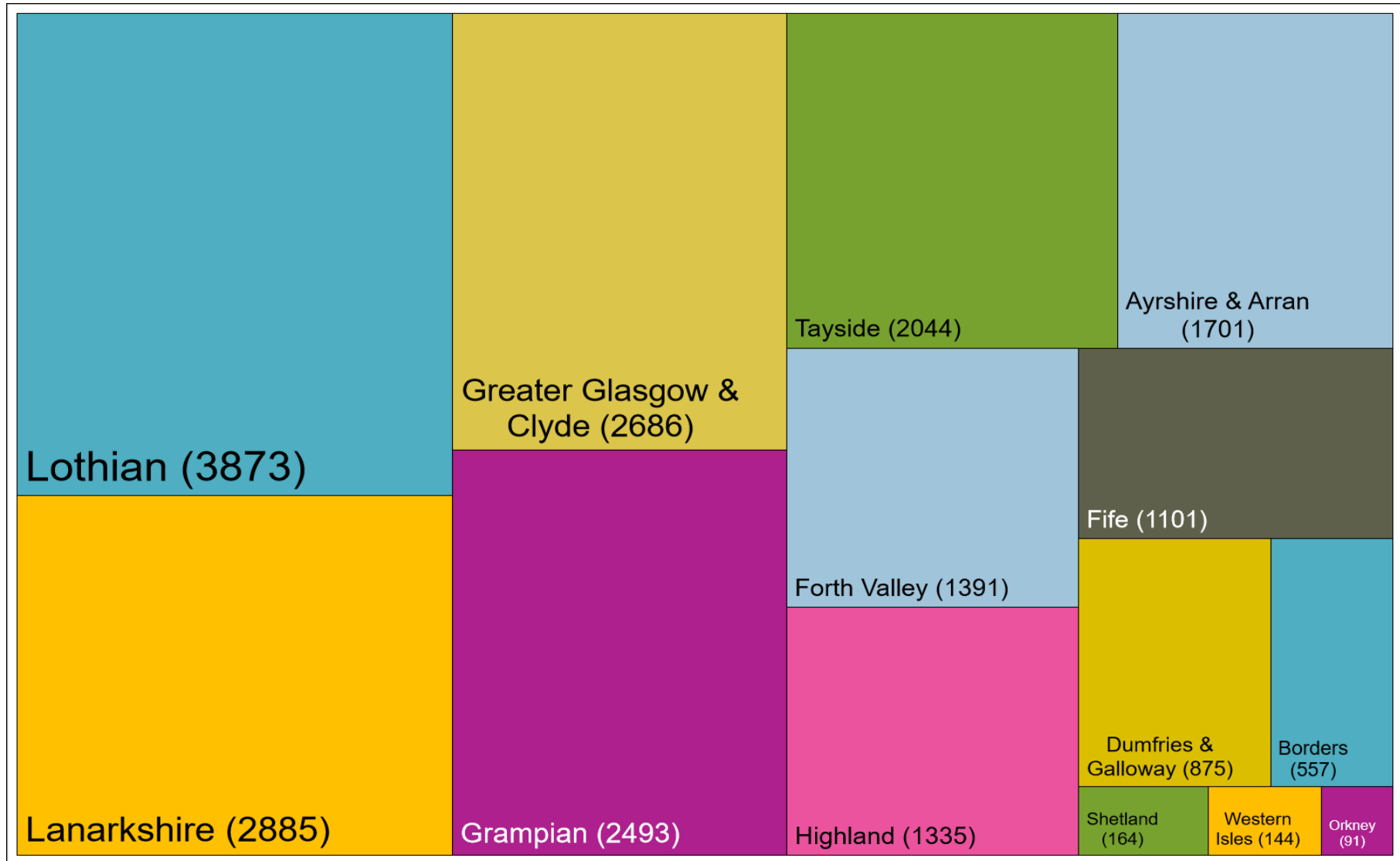
This data collection records the number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in Scotland by the 14 geographical NHS boards.

Glasgow City was not requested to provide aggregate data on this topic and is **not** included in the figures. Due to this, it is likely that there is a significant undercount of adults with learning disabilities across the 14 geographical NHS boards, in particular, Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

Data users should be aware that some adults with learning disabilities who are resident in NHS funded facilities, 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.

Figure 3 below shows the number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities by NHS board.

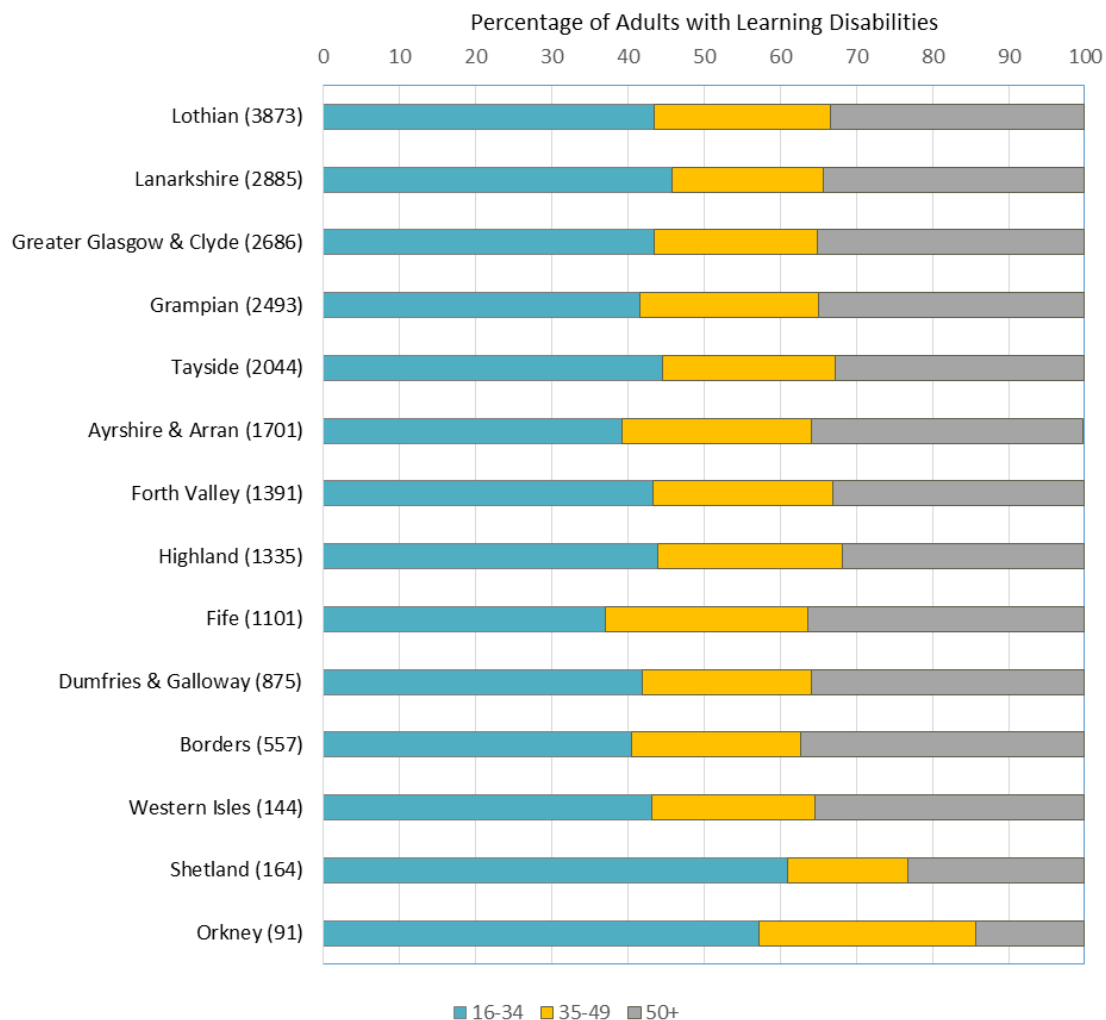
**Figure 3: Number of adults within NHS boards in Scotland (does not include Glasgow City) (2019)\***



\*73 adults are resident in an area covered by a health authority elsewhere in the UK.

The chart below shows the proportions of adults with learning disabilities aged 16-34, 35-49 and 50 and over in each NHS board. Glasgow City was not requested to provide aggregate data on this topic and is **not** included in the figures.

**Figure 4: Age structure of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in NHS board areas (does not include Glasgow City) (2019)**



Of all areas submitted, the highest proportion of adults aged 16-34 years old are in Shetland NHS Board, with 61% of its population comprising adults in that age category. Orkney NHS Board had the highest proportion of adults aged 35-49 years old (28.6%). Borders NHS Board had the highest proportion of adults aged 50 and over (37.3%).

## **In receipt of an out of area placement**

This data collection requests information from local authorities on adults with learning disabilities for whom they fund services. This includes adults who are funded by one local authority, but live in another local authority area. We refer to these adults as being in receipt of an out of area placement. This will include, but is not limited to, those adults in residential placements.

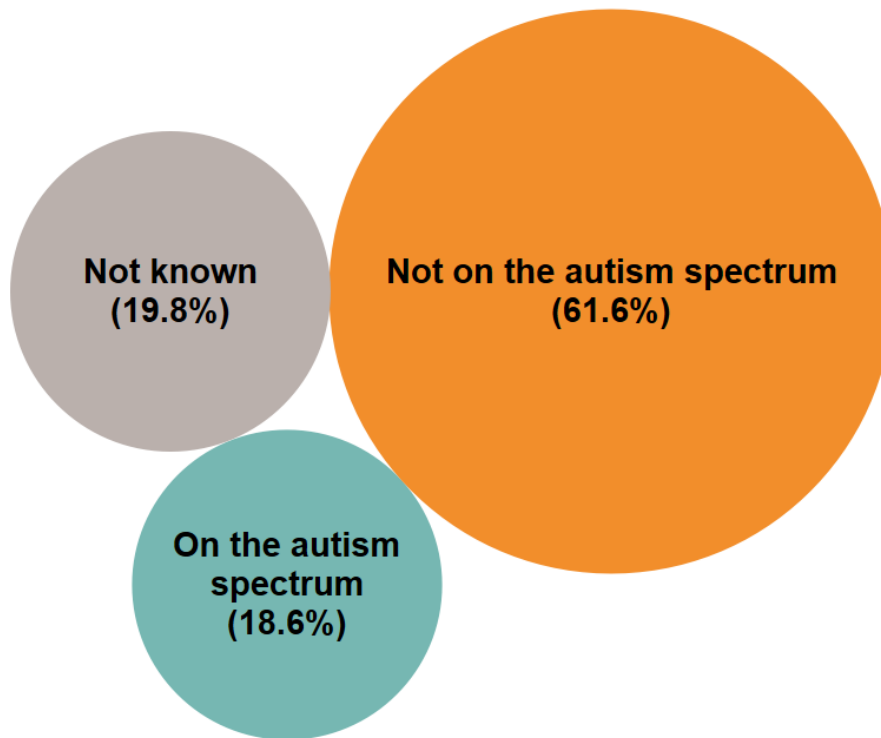
The 2019 data shows across all local authorities that supplied data for this topic, there are 1,011 adults (4.3% of **all adults**) with learning disabilities who are in receipt of an out of area placement. Highland did not supply data for this topic. Glasgow City was not requested to supply aggregate data for this topic.

## 2. Adults on the autism spectrum<sup>11</sup>

LDSS collects information on adults with learning disabilities and/or adults on the autism spectrum who are known to local authorities. Some adults are recorded as having learning disabilities and as being on the autism spectrum, whereas a small number are recorded as being on the autism spectrum but with no associated learning disability.

Local authorities reported on the number of adults on the autism spectrum known to services within their area.<sup>12</sup> There were 4,383 (18.6%) adults known to local authorities who were identified as being on the autism spectrum.

**Figure 5: Autism status for adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2019)**



<sup>11</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.

<sup>12</sup> In 2019, 30 local authorities provided individual level autism spectrum information on 16,321 adults across Scotland. North Ayrshire Council did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The autism spectrum data provided by this authority in 2018 (on 558 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City provided aggregate level data for 2171 adults. Autism spectrum status was known for 2,024 of this group. On this basis, the number of adults for whom autism spectrum status is known to local authorities in Scotland in 2019 was 18,903. This is 80.2% of all adults.

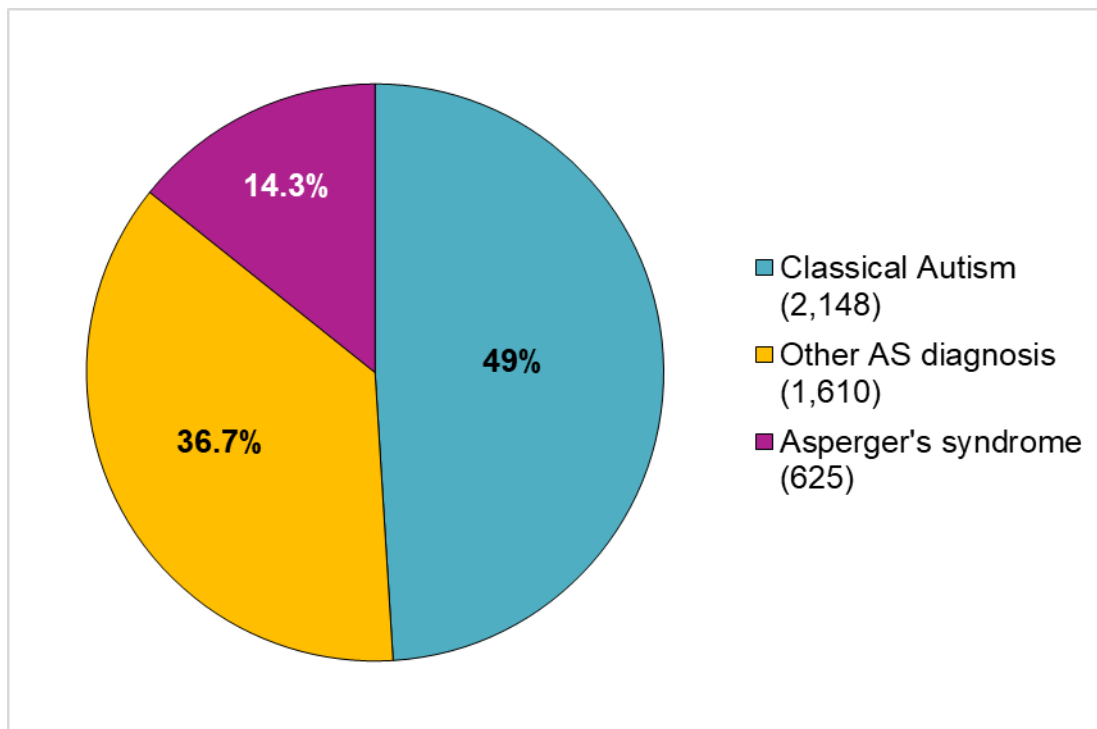


Figure 5 above shows that of all adults known to local authorities, 61.6% (14,520) are not on the autism spectrum; 18.6% (4,383) were on the autism spectrum; and a further 19.8% (4,681) did not have an autism spectrum status recorded.

In 2019, of the adults recorded as being on the autism spectrum:

- 49% (2,148 adults) had classical autism;
- 36.7% (1,610 adults) had an 'other autism spectrum diagnosis';
- 14.3% (625 adults) had Asperger's Syndrome.<sup>13</sup>

**Figure 6: Adults on the autism spectrum who are known to local authorities (2019)\***



\*This does not include adults who are not on the autism spectrum (14,520) or for whom this information has not been recorded (4,681).

<sup>13</sup> Asperger's syndrome is no longer a recognised diagnosis, but has been collected historically. The most recent classification according to the World Health Organisation can be found here: <https://icd.who.int/browse11/l-m/en>

## **Autism and learning disability status (does not include Glasgow City)**

Of the 3,934 individual records submitted and recorded as being on the autism spectrum, 2,534 adults (64.4%) are known to have a learning disability. There are 1,115 adults on the autism spectrum (28.3%) known to local authorities who do not have learning disabilities. There are also 285 adults (7.2%) on the autism spectrum whose learning disability status is not recorded.

Glasgow City did not provide individual level autism spectrum status information and so is **not** included in these figures.

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.

### 3. Adults living with a family carer

Local authorities were asked to provide information on whether adults with learning disabilities known to them were living with family carers.

In 2019, there were 7,393 adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities living with a family carer. This is 31.3% of all adults known to local authorities.<sup>14</sup>

**Figure 7: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who do/do not live with a family carer (2019)**

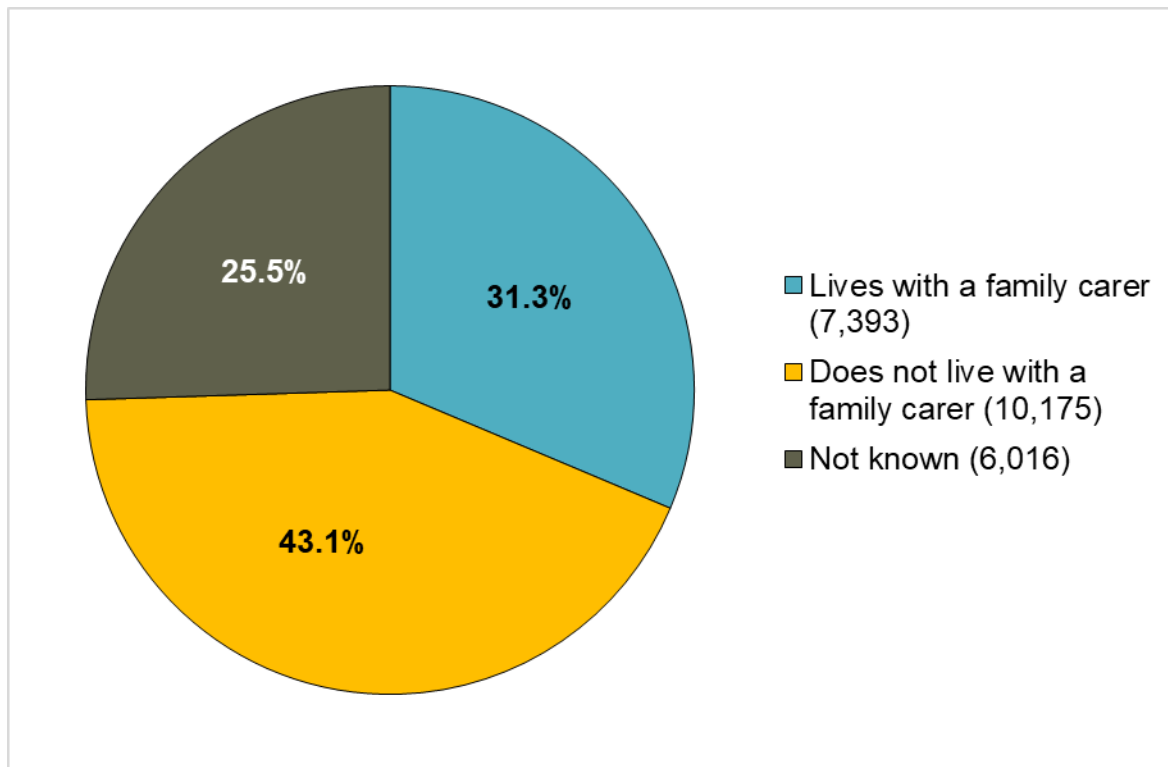


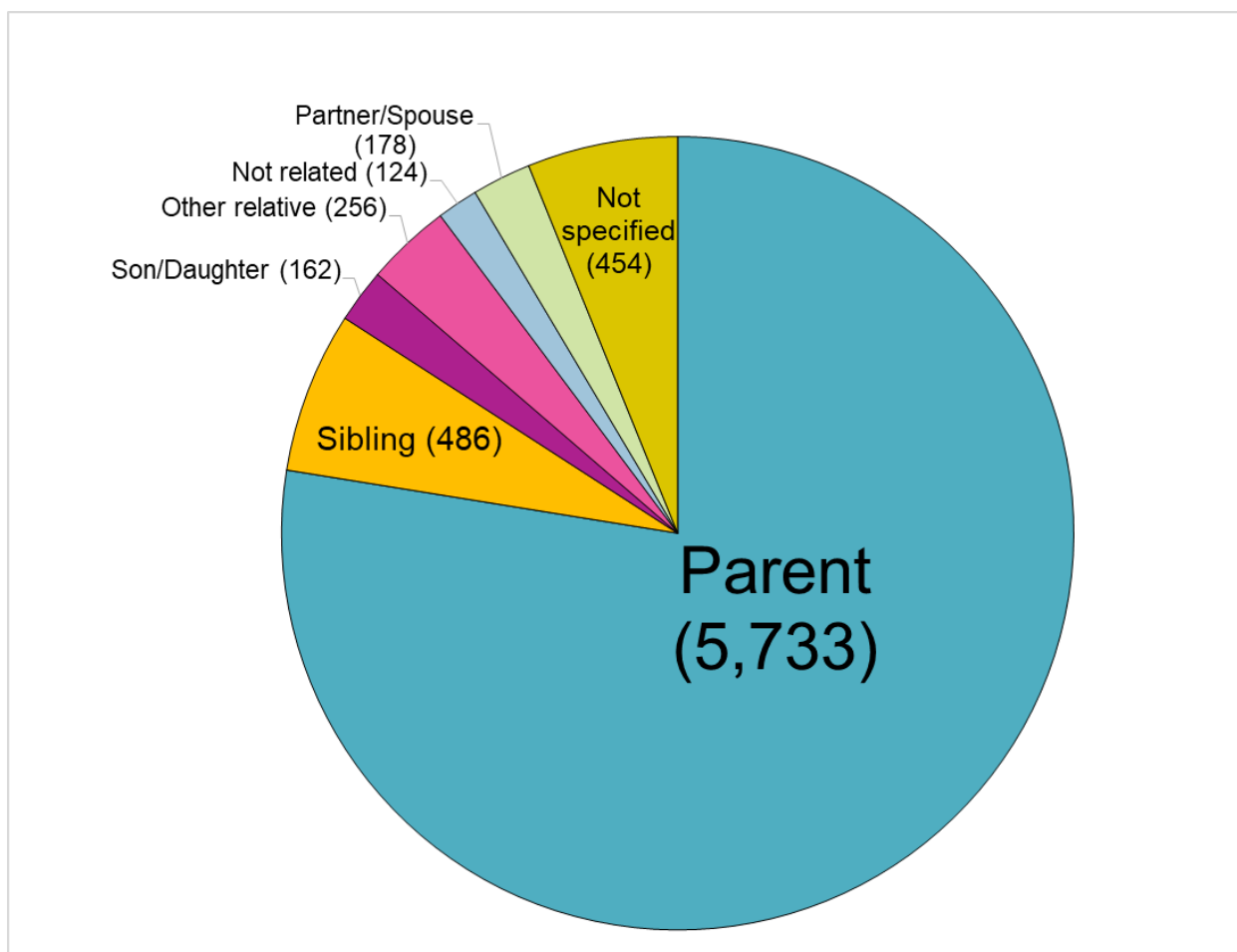
Figure 7 above shows that the majority - over two fifths - of all adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities did **not** live with a family carer.

<sup>14</sup> In 2019, 28 local authorities provided individual level information on whether 14,919 adults across Scotland lived with a family carer. Aberdeenshire and North Lanarkshire did not provide any data for this topic. North Ayrshire Council did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The family carer data provided by this authority in 2018 (on 589 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City provided aggregate level data for 2,171 adults. Family carer status was known for 2,060 of this group. On this basis, the number of adults for whom family carer information is known to local authorities in Scotland in 2019 was 17,568. This is 74.5% of all adults.

Of those 7,393 adults **who lived with a family carer** in 2019:

- 5,733 lived with a parent carer (77.5%);
- 486 lived with a sibling (6.6%);
- 454 lived with a family carer that was not specified (6.1%);
- 256 lived with another relative (3.5%);
- 178 lived with a partner/spouse (2.4%);
- 162 lived with a son/daughter (2.2%);
- 124 lived with a family carer they are not related to (1.7%).<sup>15</sup>

**Figure 8: Types of family carer with whom adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities live (2019)**

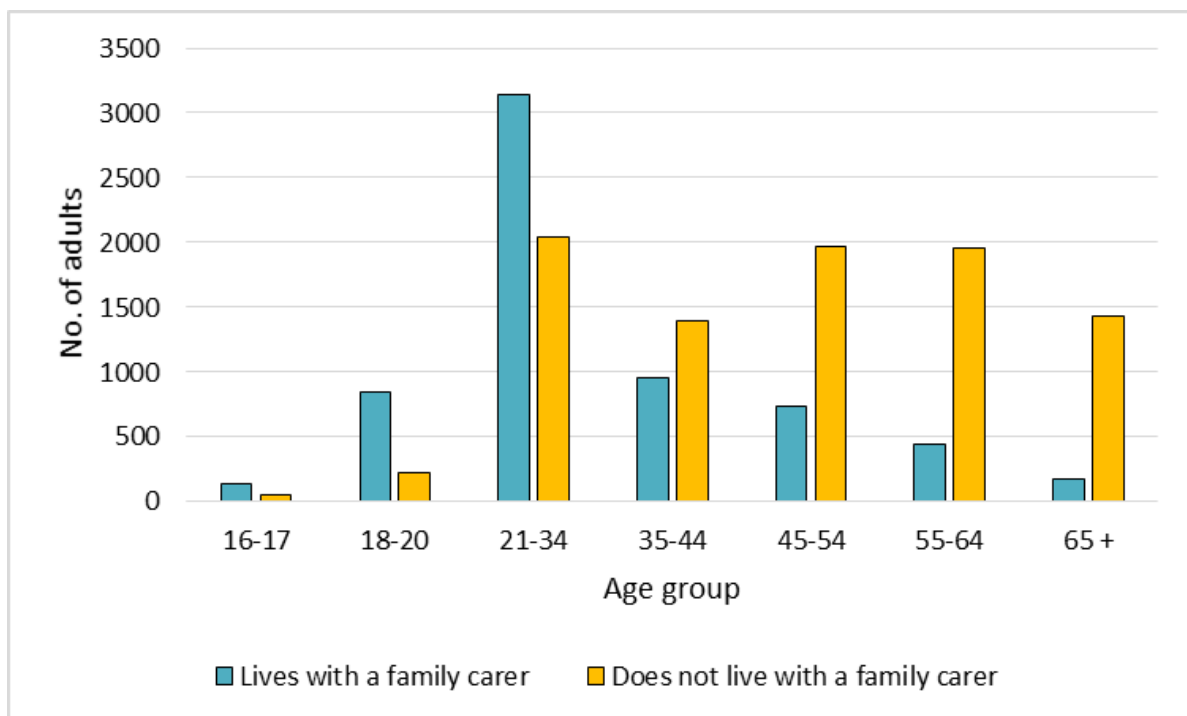


<sup>15</sup> The 'family carer not related' sub code refers to people who have support to live with a family, which is not their own.

## Family carer by age (does not include Glasgow City)

Glasgow City did not provide individual level family carer status information and so is **not** included in the figures and tables below.

**Figure 9: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who do/do not live with a family carer by age (does not include Glasgow City) (2019)**



As shown by Figure 9 above, those aged 34 and under tended to live with a family carer, whereas the reverse is true for those aged 35 and over.

**Table 3: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who do/do not live with a family carer by age (does not include Glasgow City) (2019)**

Age	Lives with a parent carer	Lives with other family carer	Lives with a family carer, not specified	All adults who live with a family carer	Does not live with a family carer	Not recorded
16-17	105	24	9	138	48	240
18-20	711	77	61	849	229	582
21-34	2,665	284	187	3,136	2,047	1,943
35-44	775	111	67	953	1,393	825
45-54	480	213	50	743	1,965	896
55-64	195	225	28	448	1,957	771
65 +	28	133	14	175	1,427	642
Not recorded	0	0	0	0	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,959</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>6,442</b>	<b>9,066</b>	<b>5,905</b>

In 2019, across all areas that submitted individual level data, there were 4,123 adults with learning disabilities aged 34 and under living with a family carer.

Table 3 above shows that across all areas that submitted individual level data, there are also 703 adults with learning disabilities aged 45 and over who are living with a parent carer. This is just over half (51.5%) of those adults aged 45 and over, who we know live with a family carer, and 7.8% of all adults with learning disabilities in that age group known to local authorities who submitted individual level data.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Glasgow City did not provide individual level family carer information and so is not included in this count i.e. the percentage is calculated from a total that does not include Glasgow City.

## 4: Accommodation type

Local authorities were asked to provide information on the types of accommodation in which people with learning disabilities who are known to them lived.<sup>17</sup> There are a variety of types of accommodation recorded under this topic. Definitions can be found in the 2019 guidance notes.<sup>18</sup>

In 2019, 61.8% (14,584) of **all adults** with learning disabilities known to local authorities lived in mainstream accommodation, 14.7% (3,466) lived in supported accommodation and 7.8% (1,837) lived in registered adult care homes. 921 (3.9%) lived in 'other' accommodation.

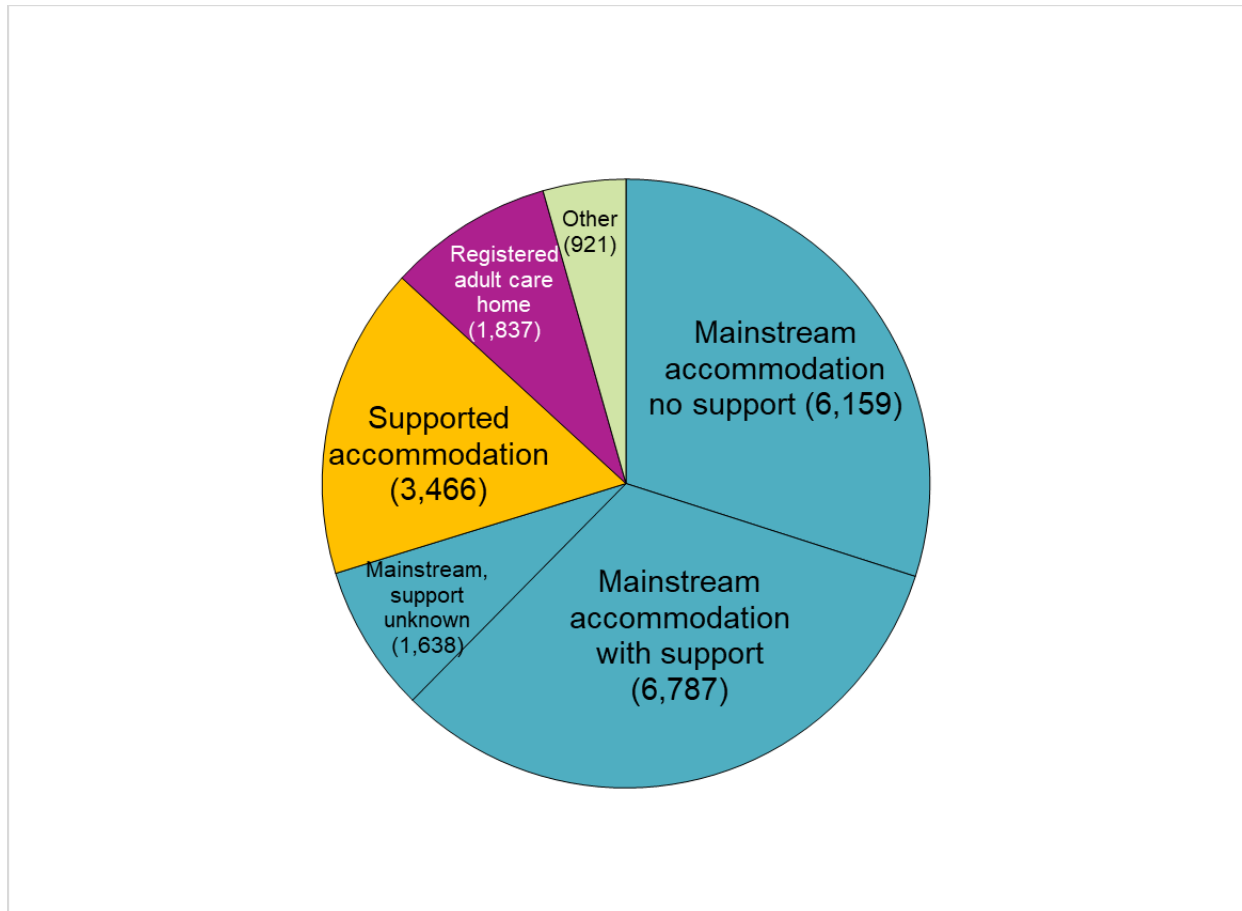
Figure 10 below shows that in 2019, over a quarter (6,787) of **all adults** with learning disabilities lived in mainstream accommodation with support. A further 6,159 lived in mainstream accommodation without support and 1,638 lived in mainstream accommodation but their support status was not known.

---

<sup>17</sup> In 2019, 30 local authorities provided information on the types of accommodation 18,246 adults were living in. North Ayrshire Council did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The accommodation data provided by this authority in 2018 (on 590 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City provided aggregate level data for 2,171 adults. Accommodation type was known for 1,972 of this group. On this basis, the number of adults for whom accommodation type is known to local authorities in Scotland in 2019 was 20,808. This is 88.2% of all adults.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.sclid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Guidance-Notes-2019.pdf>

**Figure 10: Accommodation type for adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2019)**



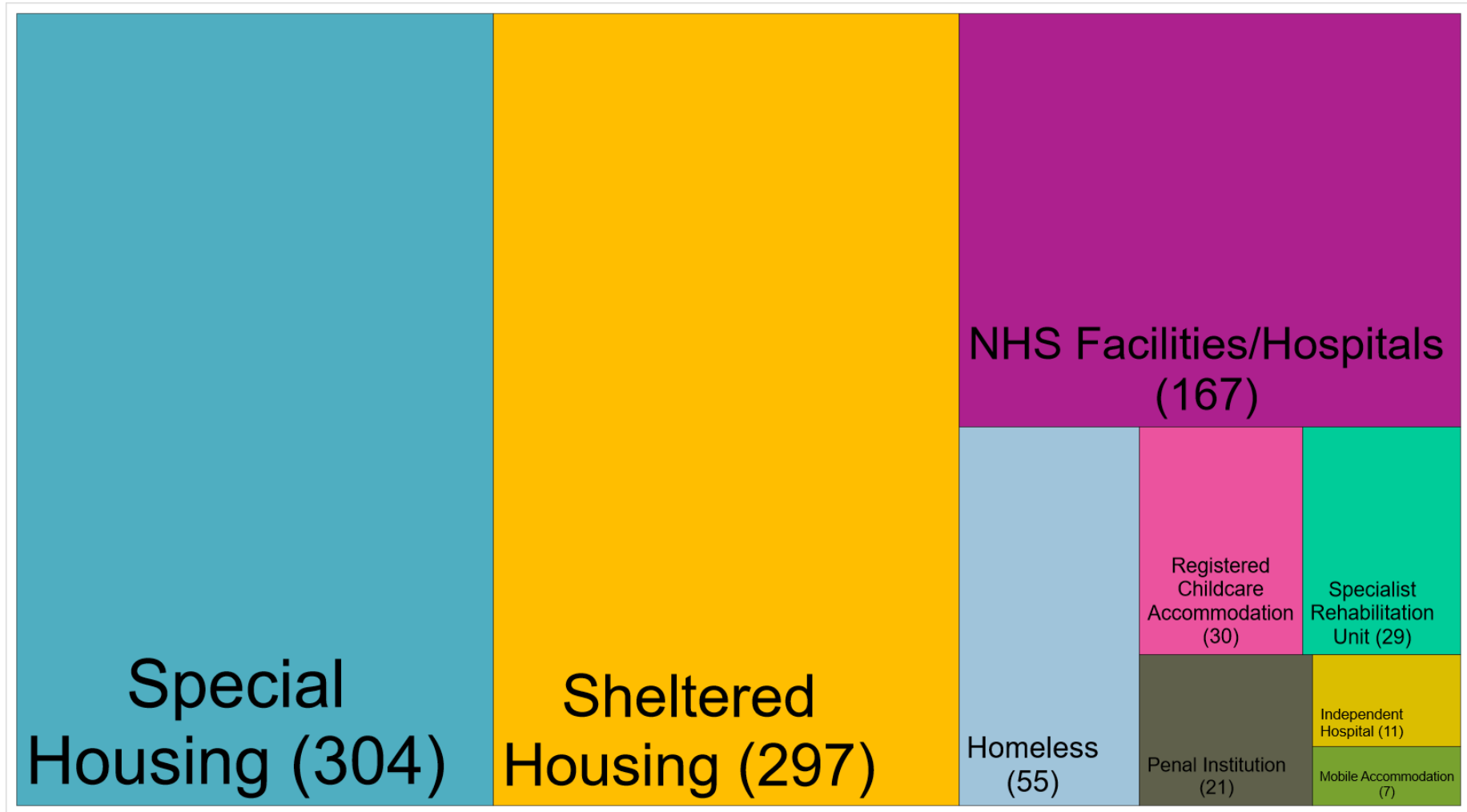
### **‘Other’ accommodation**

**Of the 921 adults with learning disabilities who live in ‘other’ accommodation:**

- 304 adults live in special housing (33%);
- 297 adults live in sheltered housing (32.2%);
- 167 adults live in NHS facilities/hospitals (18.1%);
- 55 adults are homeless (6%);
- 30 adults live in registered child care accommodation (3.3%);
- 29 adults in specialist rehabilitation units (3.1%);
- 21 adults live in penal institutions (2.3%);
- 11 adults live in independent hospitals (1.2%);
- 7 adults live in mobile accommodation (0.8%).



**Figure 11: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who live in 'other' accommodation types (2019)**



## 5: Advocacy<sup>19</sup>

Local authorities were asked to provide information on how many adults with learning disabilities who are known to them accessed advocacy services.

Advocacy is the only item within the data collection for which data are collected both within individual records and as an overall count of people receiving advocacy services. 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 advocacy information within individual records, but provided an overall count where this was not possible.

In 2019, 21 local authorities returned individual level advocacy data and 8 local authorities returned an overall count. Falkirk Council provided both individual level data and an overall count and is counted in both of these figures. Glasgow City Council provided aggregate level data for all topics data was requested for, but was able to provide a breakdown of the different types of advocacy individuals were receiving, rather than an overall count, so is counted as having returned individual level information for this topic.

Information on the use of different types of advocacy services was provided for 8,527 adults (36.2% of **all adults**). There were 1,213 adults who were recorded as using an advocacy service in 2019. This is 5.1% of **all adults** with learning disabilities.

The full breakdown of advocacy data is available in tables B5 and B6 of Annex B. The following is a discussion of the individual data (including figures for Glasgow City) only.

---

<sup>19</sup> The [Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance](#) give more information on the types of advocacy available. The definitions used in LDSS are as follows:

**Self-advocacy:** An individual is able to advocate for themselves and may be supported by a group.

**Citizen advocacy:** An ordinary citizen who may not have had any formal training will work with someone who needs the support of an advocate. They will usually not be paid.

**Collective or group advocacy:** An individual is involved in a group who support each other on common issues.

**Professional advocacy:** Usually (but not necessarily) a paid advocate who has received professional advocacy training.

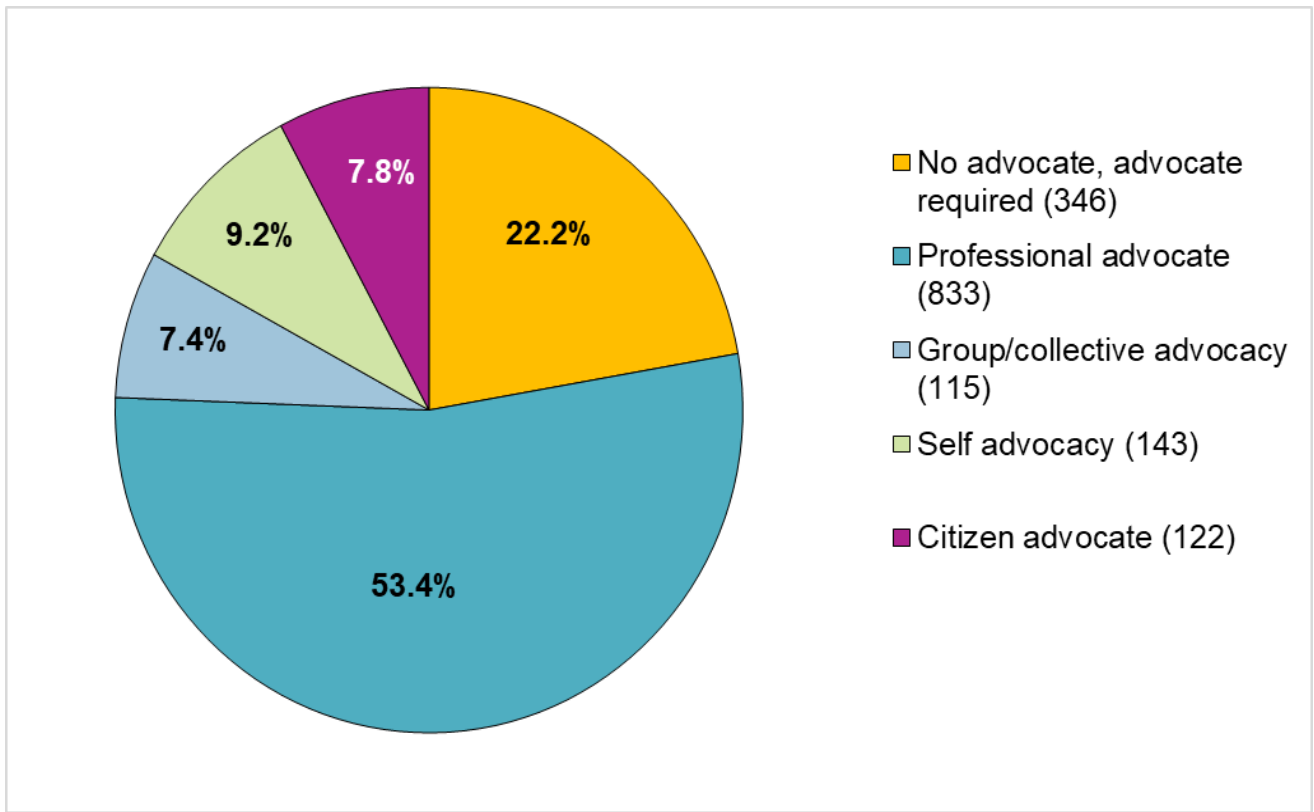
Of those **adults for whom individual level advocacy information is known** (including Glasgow City), reported advocacy use falls into the following categories:

- 6,968 (81.7%) adults do not use an advocate and do not need one;
- 346 (4.1%) adults do not use an advocate but do require one;
- 833 (9.8%) adults use a professional advocate;
- 115 (1.3%) adults use group/collective advocacy;
- 143 (1.7%) adults exercise self-advocacy<sup>20</sup>;
- 122 (1.4%) adults use a citizen advocate.

---

<sup>20</sup> [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 likely to be an underestimate.

**Figure 12: Use of advocacy by adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2019)\***



\*These figures are for adults for whom this information is recorded at an individual level only (including Glasgow City). This does not include individuals whose data has been returned on an aggregate level, as no individual data match was possible. The chart does not include those who do not have an advocate, but do not require one, or those for whom this information is not known.

## 6: Employment, training and volunteering

Local authorities were asked to provide information on how many adults with learning disabilities who are known to them were in employment.<sup>21</sup>

In 2019, 956 adults were in employment. This means that 4.1% of **all adults** known to local authorities were in employment. In 2019 10,483 adults known to local authorities were not in employment (44.4%).

**Table 4: Employment status for adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2019)**

<b>Employment status</b>	<b>Number of adults</b>	<b>Total as a % of all adults</b>
In employment	956	4.1
Not in employment	10,483	44.4
Not recorded	12,145	51.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,584</b>	<b>100.0</b>

---

<sup>21</sup> In 2019, 26 local authorities reported whether 10,111 adults were in employment. Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and South Ayrshire Councils did not provide any data for this topic. North Ayrshire Council did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The employment data provided by this authority in 2018 (on 6 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City provided aggregate level data for 2,171 adults. Employment information was known for 1,322 of this group. On this basis, the number of adults for whom employment information is known to local authorities in 2019 was 11,439. This is 48.5% of all adults.

## Types of employment

Information is also recorded on whether or not the employment is open or non-open, or whether the person is self-employed.<sup>22</sup>

Of **those in employment**,<sup>23</sup> 40.8% (390 adults), were recorded as being in open employment and just over a quarter, 25.5% (244 adults) were in non-open employment. A further 32.4% (310 adults) were in employment but it was not specified whether it was open or non-open. The remaining 1.3% (12 adults) were self-employed.

**Table 5: Type of employment for adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities (2019)**

Employment type	Number of adults	Percent (%)
Open employment	390	40.8
Non-open employment	244	25.5
In employment - type not specified	310	32.4
Self employed	12	1.3
<b>Total in employment</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>100.0</b>

---

<sup>22</sup> The definitions of open and non-open employment are:

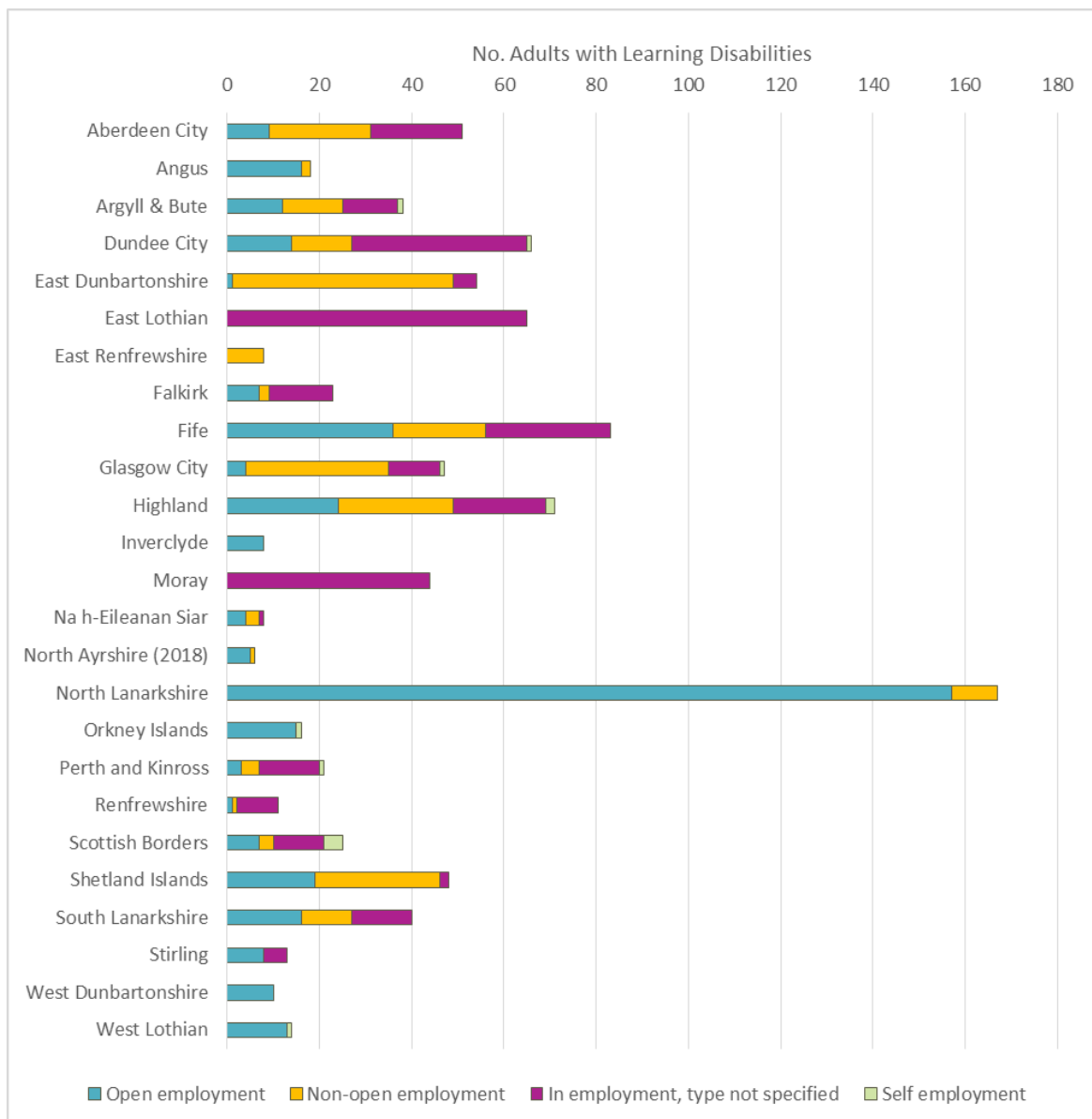
Open employment: employment in a workplace that is not specifically set up for people with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities are paid the going rate for the job.

Non-open employment: the workplace is specifically set up for people with learning disabilities. Non-open posts are not usually advertised. More information can be found in the [2019 guidance notes](#).

<sup>23</sup> Adults in employment does not include those who are solely in training for employment.

Figure 13 below shows the numbers of adults in employment in each local authority area, for areas where this breakdown has been provided. Please see Annex B for detailed employment statistics at a local authority level.

**Figure 13: Number of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in employment by local authority area (2019)\***



\* Only local authorities that provided detailed employment type breakdown are included in this figure.

## Time spent in employment

Information was also collected on the number of hours which adults with learning disabilities worked in 2019:

- 312 adults (32.6% of **all adults in employment**) worked **under 16 hours per week**.
- 387 adults (40.5% of **all adults in employment**) worked **16 hours per week or more**.

A further 257 adults (26.9% of **all adults in employment**) were in employment but the number of hours they worked is not known.

**Table 6: Time spent in employment by adults with learning disabilities (2019)**

Employment hours	Number of adults	Percent of adults with employment opportunities (%)
Under 16 hours per week	312	32.6
16 hours per week and over	387	40.5
Hours not recorded	257	26.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>100</b>



## Training for employment

Local authorities were asked to provide information on whether adults with learning disabilities who are known to them were in training for employment.<sup>24</sup> Training for employment may take place in a college or the workplace.

There were 464 adults in training for employment. This is 2% of **all adults** known to local authorities. A further 10,144 were not in training for employment (43%). Information was not recorded for 12,976 adults (55%).

**Table 7: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who were in training for employment (2019)**

Training for employment status	Number of adults	Total as a % of all adults
In training for employment	464	2.0
Not in training for employment	10,144	43.0
Not recorded	12,976	55.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,584</b>	<b>100.0</b>

---

<sup>24</sup> In 2019, 23 local authorities provided training data on 8,912 adults with learning disabilities. Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh, Dumfries & Galloway, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, Midlothian and Moray did not provide any data on this topic. North Ayrshire did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The training data provided by this authority in 2018 (on 51 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City Council provided aggregate level data for 2,171 adults. Training information was known for 1,645 of this group. On this basis, the number of adults for whom training information is known to local authorities in Scotland in 2019 was 10,608. This is 45% of all adults.

## Volunteering

Local authorities were asked to provide information on whether adults with learning disabilities who are known to them were volunteering.<sup>25</sup>

There were 799 adults who were volunteering. This is 3.4% of **all adults** known to local authorities. A further 8,920 (37.8%) were not volunteering. Information was not recorded for 13,865 (58.8%) of adults.

**Table 8: Adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities who were volunteering (2019)**

<b>Volunteering status</b>	<b>Number of adults</b>	<b>Total as a % of all adults</b>
Volunteering	799	3.4
Not volunteering	8,920	37.8
Not recorded	13,865	58.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,584</b>	<b>100.0</b>

---

<sup>25</sup> In 2019, 23 local authorities provided volunteering data on 9,329 adults with learning disabilities. Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, Midlothian, Moray and North Lanarkshire did not provide any data on this topic. North Ayrshire did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The volunteering data provided by this authority in 2018 (on 390 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City Council provided aggregate level data for 2,171 adults. Volunteering information was known for 1,296 of this group. On this basis, the number of adults for whom volunteering information is known to local authorities in Scotland in 2019 was 9,719. This is 41.2% of all adults.

## 7: Further education

Local authorities were asked to provide information on whether or not adults with learning disabilities who are known to them attended further education courses, and how many days per week they attended.<sup>26</sup>

In 2019 there were 1,145 adults in further education. This represents 4.9% of **all adults** with learning disabilities.

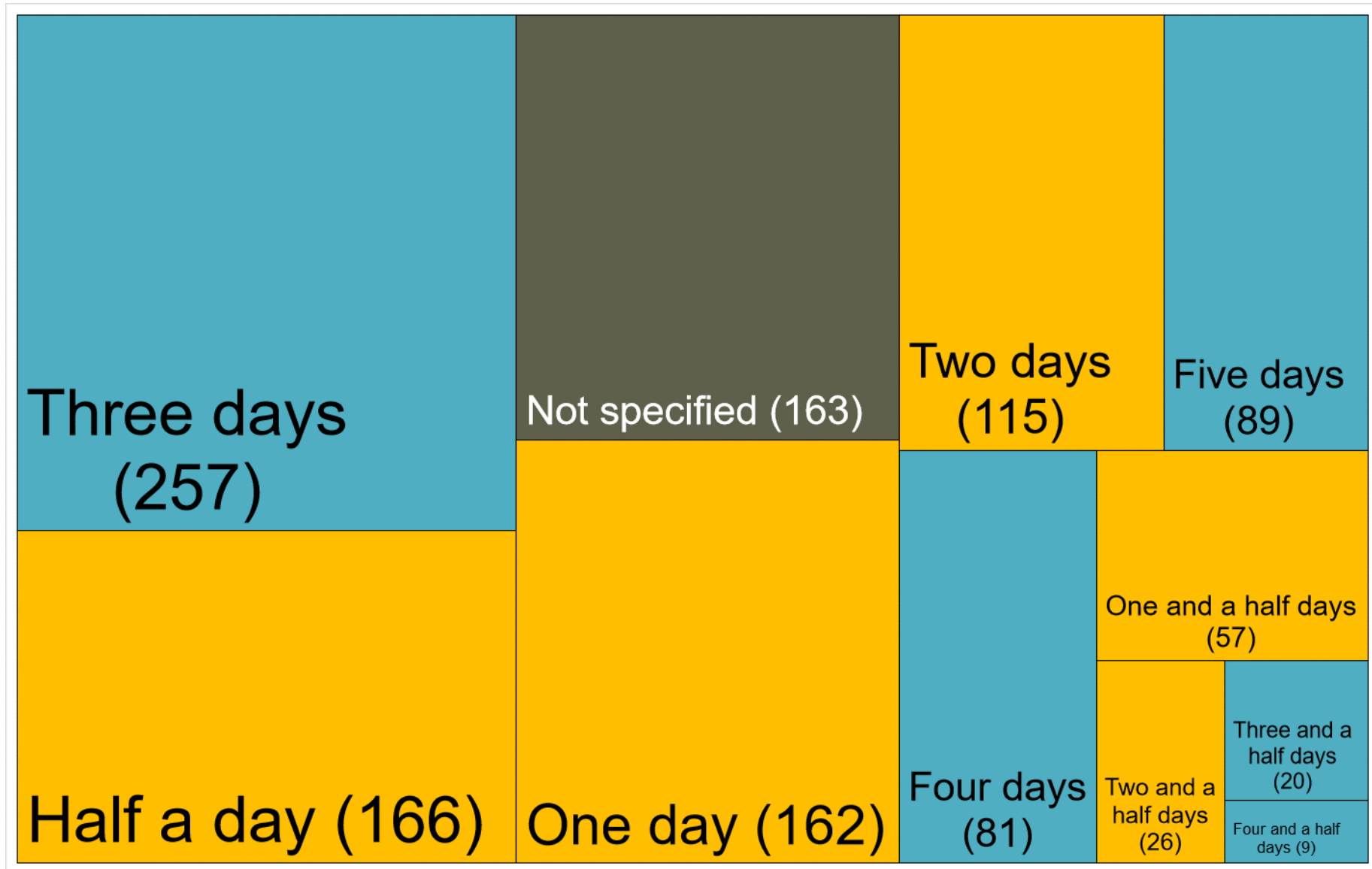
**Of those adults for whom further education information** was known in 2019:

- 10,568 (90.2%) adults were not enrolled in further education;
- 526 (4.5%) adults attended a further education course 2.5 days per week or fewer;
- 456 (3.9%) adults attended a further education course 3 days per week or more;
- 163 (1.4%) adults attended a further education course for an unspecified amount of time.

---

<sup>26</sup> In 2019, 25 local authorities gave the further education information on 11,231 adults (47.6% of all adults). Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh, Glasgow City, Midlothian, Moray and West Dunbartonshire did not provide information for this topic. North Ayrshire Council did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The further education data provided by this authority in 2018 (on 482 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. On this basis, the number of adults for whom further education information is known to local authorities in Scotland in 2019 was 11,713. This is 49.7% of all adults.

**Figure 14: Number of days spent per week in further education by adults with learning disabilities (2019)**



As shown by Table 9 below, 431 adults aged 16-34 made up the great majority (94.5%) 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:**

- 224 adults (49.1%) were aged 16-20;
- 207 adults (45.4%) were aged 21-34;
- 25 adults (5.5%) were aged 35 and over.

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

- 59 adults (11.2%) were aged 16-20;
- 242 adults (46%) were aged 21-34;
- 225 adults (42.8%) were aged 35 and over.

**Table 9: Further education status of adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities by age group (2019)\***

Age	In education, 2.5 days or fewer	In education, 3 or more days	In education, amount of time not specified	Not currently in education	Not recorded	Total
16-17	9	32	20	105	284	450
18-20	50	192	74	512	950	1,778
21-34	242	207	48	3,294	3,959	7,750
35-44	82	10	11	1,687	1,651	3,441
45-54	62	10	5	1,998	1,982	4,054
55-64	58	5	5	1,739	1,854	3,661
65+	23	0	5	1,235	1,185	2,444
Not recorded	0	0	0	0	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>10,568</b>	<b>11,871</b>	<b>23,584</b>

\*Values smaller than 5 have been disclosure controlled. This means that any value under 5 is rounded to either 0 or 5 and another value in the same row has been rounded to the nearest 5 to prevent differencing (calculating the suppressed value by subtracting from the total). Published zeros may or may not be true zeros.

## 8: Day centres

Local authorities were asked to provide information on whether or not adults with learning disabilities who are known to them attended a day centre and the number of hours they attended each week.<sup>27</sup>

In 2019, there were 4,296 adults with learning disabilities who attended a day centre. This is 18.2% of **all adults** with learning disabilities.

Almost two thirds of **all adults** known to local authorities – 14,617 (62%) adults - did not attend a day centre in 2019.

### Time spent attending day centres

Of those **adults who attended a day centre**, 580 (13.5%) attended fewer than 10 hours per week. 1,806 (42%) of adults who attended a day centre in 2019 did so for between 10 and 29.75 hours per week. A further 842 (19.6%) adults who attended a day centre did so for 30 hours or more per week.

**Table 10: Time spent by adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities attending a day centre (2019)**

Time spent (hours per week)		Number of adults	Total as a % of all adults
Attends a day centre:	fewer than 10 hours	580	2.5
	10-19.75 hours	1,129	4.8
	20-29.75 hours	677	2.9
	30+ hours	842	3.6
	time not specified	1,068	4.5
Does not attend a day centre		14,617	62.0
Not recorded		4,671	19.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>23,584</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>27</sup> In 2019, 29 local authorities provided day centre information on 16,959 adults with learning disabilities. North Lanarkshire Council did not provide any data on this topic. North Ayrshire Council did not provide any data on adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. The day centre data provided by this authority in 2018 (on 188 adults) have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City Council provided aggregate level data for 2,171 adults. Day centre information was known for 1,766 of this group. On this basis, the number of adults for whom day centre information is known to local authorities in Scotland in 2019 was 18,913. This is 80.2% of all adults.

## **9. Information on the quality of the data**

### **Changes to the Collection**

For the 2019 collection, after agreement with the Scottish Government's learning disability team, a number of outdated variables were removed in preparation for the merger with Source. These variables were: 'Number of adults in the same accommodation'; 'Local Area Coordination'; 'Personal Life Plan' and, 'Alternative opportunities.' LDSS asked for the records of people with whom local authorities had contact with in the last 12 months. Date of birth and postcode were mandatory fields. Social Care ID Number was requested, to allow for data linkage between LDSS and Source. CHI was also requested, in order to support future data linkage across health and social care data.

Prior to LDSS 2017, the data reporting period changed from three years to one year and the data was submitted to the LDSS team in the period April to July as opposed to September to December, as it historically had been. Data users should take these methodological changes into account alongside data completeness issues and exercise extra caution when attempting to compare data prior to 2017 to that of subsequent years.

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 2008 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.

## Data Collection Process and Methodology

In 2019, 30 local authorities provided data on adults with learning disabilities as per the data guidance. North Ayrshire Council did not return any data about adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. To present a picture for Scotland, figures provided by this authority in 2018 have been used across this report and its annexes. Glasgow City Council has provided aggregate figures on all topics data was requested for. Some local authorities were unable to provide data for some topics. These factors have limited some of the analyses that might otherwise be possible and where this is the case, is highlighted at appropriate points in the report.

The data reported in this release relate to a single year reporting period from April 2018 to March 2019.

In any given year, the LDSS 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 school 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 provided to the dataset by the local authorities for each adult known to them, regardless of whether they are currently receiving a service. Strict guidelines are followed to ensure anonymity. 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 2019 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 more local authority, the

---

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.sclد.org.uk/what-we-do/population-statistics/codes-practice/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.sclد.org.uk/what-we-do/population-statistics/data-guidance/>



guidance asks that local authorities decide between themselves, which local authority should include that person in their data return.

The collection of LDSS 2019 was carried out by the ScotXed Team within Scottish Government using their ProcXed system. The ProcXed system increases standardisation, and has in-built data validation checks that allow each local authority to ensure the data is valid before they submit. Local authorities cannot submit data without it being approved by the LDSS team. Additionally the ProcXed system provides the local authorities with frequency tables and the opportunity to carry out their own analysis. The 2019 LDSS Statistics Release is the fourth to be published under this system of collection. Responsibility for the development of the dataset and analysis and publication of data remains with SCLD.

The LDSS team receive the data via ProcXed and it is then stored on a secure server and accessed only by the statistical team, all of whom ensure adherence to General Data Protection Regulations and Code of Practice confidentiality principles to maintain data security.

Data are 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 and duplicated records, are corrected. This analysis forms the basis for the content of the annual statistics release. The statistical team undertake all data analysis in Stata and Microsoft Excel.

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. Further information on this report can be found in the National Statistics Assessment section.

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>

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 2019', and 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2019'.

### **Data Quality and Data Limitations**

This statistics release contains information on adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities in Scotland who are then reported to the LDSS collection. Data users must be aware that this statistics 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 be reported to LDSS.

Some local authorities only return information on adults with learning disabilities who are in receipt of a service funded by the local authority, rather than those who are known to the local authority, as this is the information which can be extracted from their Management Information Systems. Data users should be aware that the number of adults with learning disabilities and the total number recorded nationally are therefore likely to be an under-estimate.

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. However, the statistics return does include individuals who have relatively little formal support or

---

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.sclد.org.uk/what-we-do/population-statistics/>

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. It also includes a number of adults (3,018) who are not currently in receipt of a service.

While generally data completeness has been improving, there is missing data both within individual records and in discrete data items. In 2018, the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) saw a reduction in data, particularly data sourced from third parties.

Discussions are ongoing between the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council in relation to a Data Sharing Agreement for the collection. It was agreed Glasgow City would provide aggregate data for 2019 until these discussions have concluded. This has affected the scope of the data which has been included from Glasgow in this report.

Data users should be aware that there is incomplete data, within individual data items, for example employment. They should also be aware that 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, can arise because a local authority may not have submitted any data on that item; 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, 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.

For a more comprehensive assessment of data quality within the Statistics Release, please see 'Annex C Data Quality Statement on Statistics Release: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland 2019' and 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2019'.<sup>31</sup>

---

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.sclد.org.uk/what-we-do/population-statistics/codes-practice/>

## Data Completeness

North Ayrshire Council did not return any data about adults with learning disabilities for the 2019 collection. To present a picture for Scotland, figures provided by this authority in 2018 have been used across this report and its annexes. In the table below, North Ayrshire is counted as a returning authority, to allow for meaningful comparability on data completeness across individual items. Glasgow City Council provided aggregate figures for the 2019 collection. Glasgow City is also counted as a returning authority for data items aggregate figures were requested and returned for.

The table below shows the main changes in the data items that were requested between 2008 and 2019, and the completeness of data reporting for each item. Reporting at a national level has increased since 2018 for the following items:

- Family Carer,
- Day centre attendance,
- Further education

Data completeness remained the same for:

- Gender,
- Year of Birth,
- Accommodation type.

Data completeness has decreased for:

- Learning disability,
- Ethnic group,
- Autism spectrum diagnosis,
- Employment opportunities.

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.

## Completeness of data reporting (2008- 2019)<sup>32</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										
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019
Gender	32	23,578	6	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	100	100	100	100
Year of birth	32	23,578	6	99	99	99	100	100	100	99	100	100	100	100
Learning disability	31	21,042	2,542	99	99	99	99	100	100	98	99	98	98	89
Adults in the same accommodation	N/A	N/A	N/A	58	69	77	81	80	77	77	78	76	73	-
Ethnic group	32	20,944	2,640	68	79	85	90	89	90	89	89	91	90	89
Lives with family carer	30	17,568	6,016	64	73	78	82	78	81	80	78	74	72	74
Day centre attendance	31	18,913	4,671	-	-	-	-	86	73	75	65	80	74	80
Alternative opportunities	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-	64	59	59	59	75	66	-
Autism Spectrum Diagnosis	32	18,903	4,681	53	57	74	80	83	83	82	85	83	85	80
Accommodation type	32	20,808	2,776	-	81	89	90	91	89	89	90	91	88	88
Personal Life Plan	N/A	N/A	N/A	49	55	61	73	75	74	72	75	82	79	-
Employment opportunities	28	11,439	12,145	45	53	55	61	68	65	67	59	61	52	49
Local Area Co-ordination	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	57	68	79	81	80	99	100	100	99	-
Further Education	26	11,713	11,871	n/a	44	45	55	55	55	57	54	55	45	50

Notes: North Ayrshire Council did not return any data for this collection. To allow for meaningful comparability on data completeness across individual items, it is counted as a reporting local authority in the table above (using 2018 figures). Glasgow City Council provided aggregate figures for most topics data was requested for. Notably, this did not include learning disability data, which accounts for the drop in completeness.

Employment opportunities methodology differs from 2015 onward, meaning the figures from 2015 onward are 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 data from 2017 onwards is not directly comparable to previous years.

<sup>32</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 (23,584 in 2019; 23,446 in 2018; 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).

## 10: Further information on this release

The Statistics Release is available on the internet by accessing the SCLD website: <https://www.sclد.org.uk/what-we-do/population-statistics/>

Further information on adults with learning disabilities is available from the SCLD website: [www.sclد.org.uk](http://www.sclد.org.uk)

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

This statistics release was published on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Previous Statistics Releases, including the aggregate collections published prior to 2008 are available at:  
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/Publications>

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

*Health and Community Care Statistics*

*Basement Rear*

*St Andrew's House*

*Edinburgh*

*EH1 3DG*

Tel: 0131 244 3777

Email: [SWStat@gov.scot](mailto:SWStat@gov.scot)

## Background

The statistics in this publication are collected as a result of ‘The same as you?’ review of services for people with learning disabilities, published in May 2000.<sup>33</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 statistics 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. The 2019 collection was the eleventh year statistics were collected on an individual level basis.<sup>34</sup>

## 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

---

<sup>33</sup> The same as you?: <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/1095/0001661.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> With the exception of advocacy.

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. As discussed in the earlier section 'Data Collection Process and Methodology,' 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>35</sup>

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 2019' and 'LDSS Statement of Administrative Sources 2019'.

## **Data Usage**

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 statistics producer team.

Uses of the data include:

- Informing the general public's choices:
  - about the state of the economy, society and the environment,

---

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.sclد.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/LDSS-QIF-report.pdf>



- about the performance of government and public bodies.
- Government decision making about policies, and associated decisions about related programmes and projects to inform:
  - policy making,
  - policy monitoring.
- Resource allocation – typically by central and local government.
- Supporting third sector activity, for example lobbying and funding applications.
- Facilitating academic research.

Information on other relevant sources of data from across the United Kingdom on adults with learning disabilities is provided in Section 12 of this Statistics Release.

## Development of LDSS

In June 2013, the Scottish Government launched its current strategy for people with learning disabilities in Scotland, ‘*The keys to life: Improving quality of life for people with learning disabilities*’.<sup>36</sup> An updated implementation framework for ‘*The keys to life*’ was launched in March 2019.<sup>37</sup>

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. To this end, SCLD and Information Services Division (ISD) have been working together over the course of 2019 to merge LDSS into the Source Social Care dataset.<sup>38</sup> As part of this process, SCLD has worked with Scottish Government learning disability colleagues to update the LDSS data items to more closely align them

---

<sup>36</sup> Scottish Government, 2013, ‘The keys to life: Improving quality of life for people with learning disabilities’ <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0042/00424389.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> <https://keystolife.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Keys-To-Life-Implementation-Framework.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> Formerly the Social Care Survey.

with current policy and the new implementation framework for *'The keys to life.'*

Final guidance for data providers will be issued in January 2020, and will take effect from April 2020. Data providers will submit LDSS data to ISD via their GlobalScape system as part of the Source Social Care survey from September 2020. The initial tranche of data will allow for data quality issues to be uncovered and addressed.

The merger ensures that learning disability data is captured within a routine health and social care data collection. This will add value to the data by allowing for linkage with other topics within the Source dataset, as well as linkage with other health and social care datasets.

## 11: Further analysis

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

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:

Lorne Berkley or Ruth Callander,  
Scottish Commission for Learning Disability,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 5.2,  
Stock Exchange,  
77 Nelson Mandela Place,  
Glasgow G2 1QY  
Website: [www.sclld.org.uk](http://www.sclld.org.uk)  
Tel: 0141 248 3733

Email:

[lorne.b@sclld.co.uk](mailto:lorne.b@sclld.co.uk)  
[ruth.c@sclld.co.uk](mailto:ruth.c@sclld.co.uk)

## **12: Links to other information sources and publications about people with learning disabilities**

### **Scotland**

#### **Scotland's Census 2011, National Records of Scotland**

Latest release: 29 January 2015

The 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/>

#### **The Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory (SLDO)**

SLDO is funded by the Scottish Government. It was 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 aims to:

- Produce high quality evidence to support learning disability policy and practice.
- Work with partners to help to build more sustainable approaches to increasing the visibility of people with learning disabilities in data.

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

#### **Learning Disability Inpatient Activity, Information Services Division (ISD)**

Latest release: 3 December 2019

This publication presents information on patients who have been cared for as inpatients or day cases in learning disability specialty beds in Scottish hospitals. It also includes records from certain care homes contracted by NHS Boards to provide this care.

<https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Mental-Health/Publications/2019-12-03/2019-12-03-Learning-Disability-Inpatient-Activity-Report.pdf?9565371275>

## **UK**

### **People with Learning Disabilities in England 2019, Public Health England**

Latest release: 28 October 2019

This publication provides national statistics about people with learning disabilities in England and the services and support available to them and their families.

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

### **Local Authority Registers of People with Disabilities, the Welsh Government**

Latest release: 30 October, 2019.

This publication includes information on people recorded on local authority registers of disabled people with physical or sensory disabilities and learning disabilities.

<https://gov.wales/local-authority-registers-disabled-people-31-march-2019>

### **Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics: Mental Health and Learning Disability 2018/19, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

Latest release: 21 August, 2019.

This publication presents information on inpatients and compulsory admissions under the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986 in mental health and learning disability hospitals.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/mental-health-and-learning-disability-inpatients-201819>

