

## CHAPTER 6: PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

About 21% of the total adult population is disabled<sup>43</sup>. Compared with non-disabled people, disabled people are<sup>44</sup>:

- more likely to live in poverty (having on average less than half the income earned by non-disabled people)
- less likely to have educational qualifications and two and half times more likely to be economically inactive
- more likely to experience problems with hate crime or harassment
- more likely to experience problems with housing and with transport (most often identified by disabled people as their biggest challenge)
- 27% of disabled 19 year olds are not in education, training or employment, compared with 10% of their non-disabled peers<sup>45</sup>.

As our population ages, levels of disability will increase sharply. Research suggests that older people are generally free of prolonged disability until they reach their 70s, after which they may face accelerating disability levels until death. But disability does not only affect older people. Around 3% of u16s have functional disabilities and the majority of those claiming disability benefits have learning difficulties and mental health problems. Among our working-age population, between 14% and 16% of adults – around 120,000 people – have a disability.

The number of severely disabled people is likely to increase among the youngest age groups. Improvements in neonatal health care mean more children survive increasingly premature births. These advances – although welcome – impact significantly on patterns of disability; around half of all premature babies born before 26 weeks are disabled; a quarter are severely disabled. As more premature babies survive, the number of young people with severe disabilities is likely to rise and, in the longer term this will filter through into our working-age population.

### 6.1 Learning Disabilities

In 2005-06 the rate of people with learning disabilities receiving social care services was 3.5 per 1,000 of the population aged 18+ for ECC, 3.9 per 1,000 for Southend and 2.7 per 1,000 for Thurrock. The national rate is 3.9 per 1,000.

The ECC Learning Disabilities Register contains current NHS and social care service users and is therefore a more comprehensive estimate of need. As at 31 July 07, there were 4,500 people registered with a learning disability. This is equivalent to a rate of 4.4 per 1,000 of the population aged 18+<sup>46</sup>. As set out in the table below, highest rates can be found in Tendring and Colchester and the lowest in Epping Forest and Rochford. The variance between areas is 5.2 per 1,000 population 18+.

---

<sup>43</sup> General Household Survey (ONS) 2002

<sup>44</sup> Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People. Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, January 2005

<sup>45</sup> Youth Cohort Study, DCSF 2003

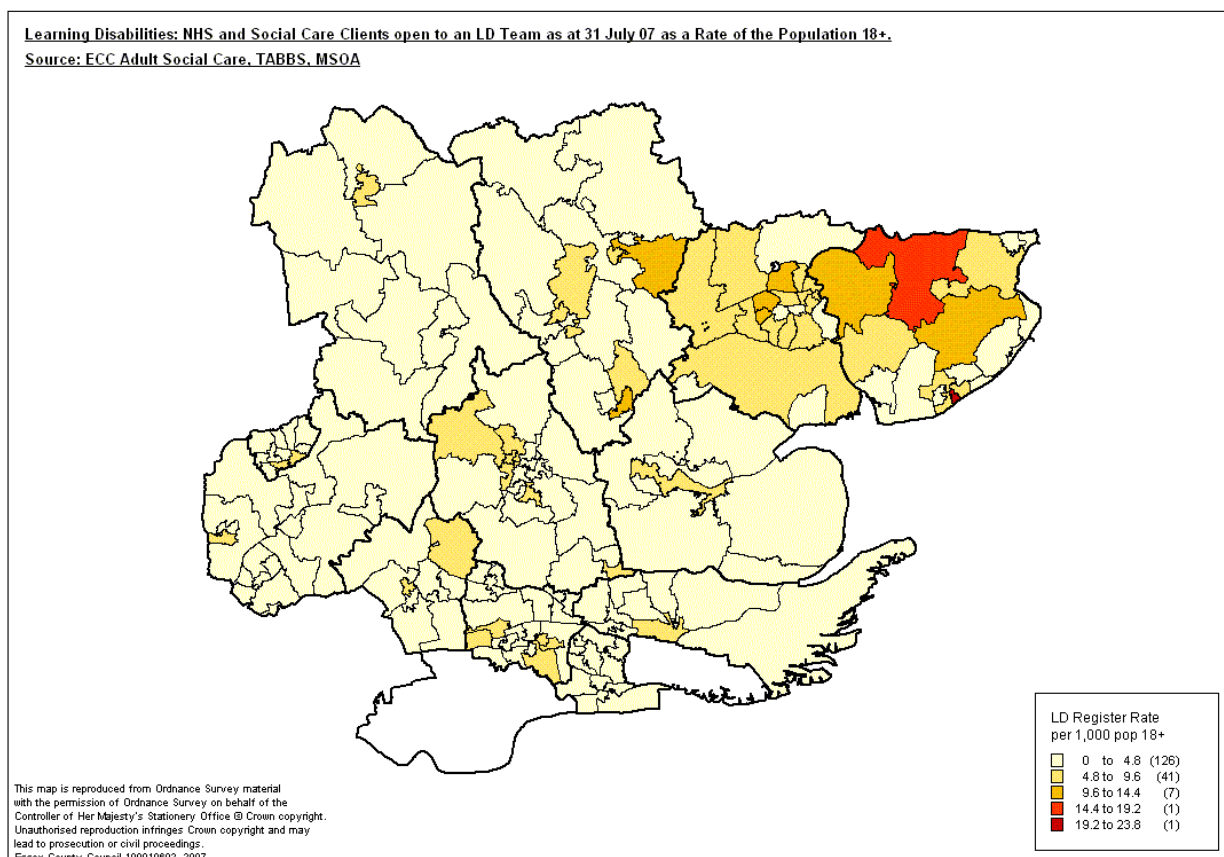
<sup>46</sup> Comparable data unavailable for two UAs.

Figure 6.1: ECC Learning Disabilities Register

	N	Rate per 1,000 aged 18+
Basildon	445	3.5
Braintree	502	5.0
Brentwood	191	3.6
Castle Point	179	2.6
Chelmsford	395	3.2
Colchester	801	6.6
Epping Forest	201	2.1
Harlow	199	3.3
Maldon	131	2.9
Rochford	123	2.0
Tendring	796	7.2
Uttlesford	128	2.4
<b>ECC</b>	<b>4,091</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Outside ECC</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4.4</b>

Of the 176 MSOAs in ECC, 40% are above the ECC LD Register rate of 4.4 per 1,000 aged 18+. In areas where there were previously large long-stay hospitals for adults with learning disabilities, rates are double the ECC rate. People have more likely resettled in these areas.

Figure 6.2: ECC rates of people on the Learning Disability Register by MSOA, Jul-07



Comparable data unavailable for the two UAs. Please refer to local JSNAs for further information.

## 6.2 Physical Impairment

In England 27 people per 1,000 population aged 18+ have a physical disability, temporary disability or are considered frail and are supported by adult social services (RAP, 2005-06). By comparison, the ECC rate is 32.0 per 1,000, that for Southend is 30.3 per 1,000 and for Thurrock is 16.9 per 1,000.

In ECC there were 2,548 service users open to physical impairment teams during 2006-07. This equates to a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 of the population aged 18+<sup>47</sup>. As can be seen from the table below, highest rates can be found in Tendring, Colchester and Harlow and the lowest in Rochford, Epping Forest and Uttlesford. The variance between areas is 1.4 per 1,000 18+.

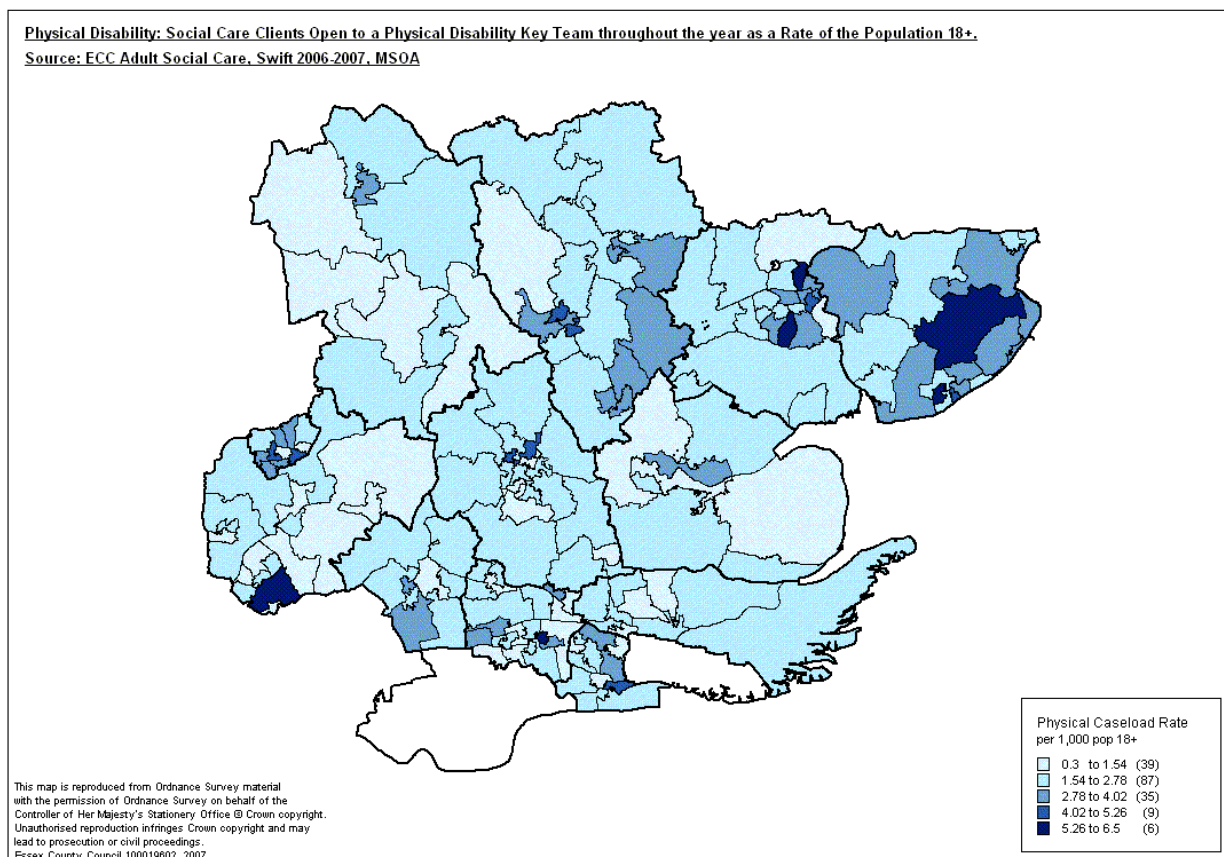
Figure 6.3: ECC numbers and rates of service users with physical impairment

	N	Rate per 1,000 aged 18+
Basildon	272	2.2
Braintree	282	2.8
Brentwood	114	2.1
Castle Point	145	2.1
Chelmsford	268	2.2
Colchester	350	2.9
Epping Forest	168	1.8
Harlow	171	2.9
Maldon	91	2.0
Rochford	102	1.7
Tendring	346	3.1
Uttlesford	93	1.8
<b>ECC</b>	<b>2402</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Outside ECC</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2548</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Of the 176 MSOAs in ECC, 36% are above the ECC physical impairment rate of 2.5 per 1,000 of the population aged 18+. Five per cent have double the ECC rate with the highest rate of 6.5 per 1,000 in Basildon.

<sup>47</sup> Service users open to a physical impairment team during 2006-07. Comparable data unavailable for two UAs.

Figure 6.4: ECC rate of physical impairment by MSOA, 2006-07



Comparable data unavailable for the two UAs. Please refer to local JSNAs for further information.

### 6.3 Sensory Impairment

The latest comparative information available (RAP 2005-06) shows that ECC (1.3 per 1,000), Southend (1.7 per 1,000) and Thurrock (0.7 per 1,000) all have rates of sensory impairment in receipt of social services below the national rate of 2.2 per 1,000 population aged 18+.

However, the inclusion of those with mild or secondary impairment (eg uncertified sight loss or hard of hearing) increases the ECC rate to 4.6 per 1,000 of the population 18+ while limiting it to only those with severe sensory impairment decreases the rate to 0.6 per 1,000 of the population aged 18+ <sup>48</sup>. As the table below shows, highest rates of all forms of sensory impairment can be found in Colchester, Tendring and Castle Point, while lowest rates are in Harlow and Epping Forest. Variance between areas is 4.3 per 1,000 18+.

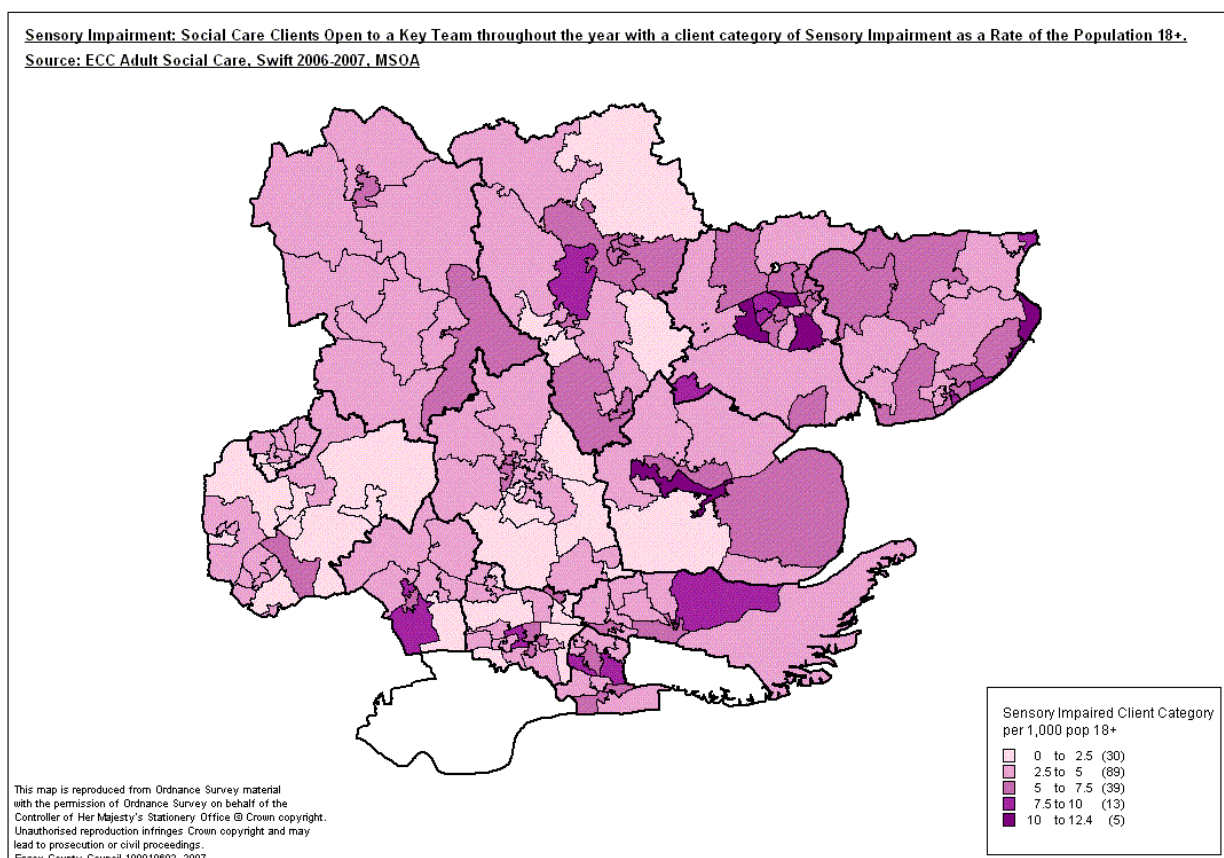
<sup>48</sup> Service users open to a sensory impairment team during 2006-07. Comparable data unavailable for two UAs.

Figure 6.5: ECC levels of sensory impairment, 2006-07

	Severe sensory impairment	Rate per 1,000 18+	All forms of sensory impairment	Rate per 1,000 18+
Basildon	93	0.7	468	3.7
Braintree	53	0.5	440	4.3
Brentwood	31	0.6	252	4.7
Castle Point	44	0.7	339	5.0
Chelmsford	68	0.6	404	3.3
Colchester	77	0.6	815	6.7
Epping Forest	50	0.5	289	3.1
Harlow	33	0.6	144	2.4
Maldon	27	0.6	206	4.5
Rochford	40	0.7	291	4.8
Tendring	94	0.8	642	5.8
Uttlesford	22	0.4	211	4.0
<b>ECC</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4,501</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Outside ECC</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4,688</b>	<b>4.6</b>

In terms of all forms of sensory impairment, 38% of MSOAs in ECC have a higher than average rate of service users with a sensory impairment. Six per cent have rates that are double that for ECC.

Figure 6.6: ECC all forms of sensory impairment by MSOA, 2006-07



Comparable data unavailable for the two UAs. Please refer to local JSNAs for further information.

## 6.4 Conclusion

As our population ages, more people are needing support. In addition, more children with complex and multiple disabilities are surviving into adulthood. Levels of learning disability in north east Essex are significantly higher than elsewhere, largely because Essex was home to a number of specialist residential hospitals and, when they closed, many residents continued to live locally.