

**Report of the Cabinet Member
Adult Social Care & Health Services**

I have been asked to Report on the following for Full Council on 26 May 2022:

1. By Councillor Hannaford as follows:

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm how many children and adults in the Devon County Council area have acute medical needs and disabilities and do we know how many of these individuals have to use life saving medical equipment, such as ventilators, or need to charge up mobility aids to get out and about.

Have we done a risk assessment about their additional energy needs during the cost of living crisis, in relation to their economic vulnerabilities and being plunged further into poverty.

As we are facing a real term cut in state benefits, can it be confirmed what additional help for these specific groups is currently available.

Can we arrange a Devon County Council media campaign, with other key partners and District Councils, to make sure that everyone who has acute medical needs and disabilities receive any additional help and support with their higher energy needs.

Response

1. There are an estimated 145,179 in DCC area with a limiting longstanding illness. This is the number of people responding to the [question in the 2011 Census](#), who report that their day to day activities are limited a little or a lot.

Below are some estimates for adults living with disabilities in Devon from [PANSI/POPPI](#). The figures below do not always relate to unique individuals as some people will have more than one disability and appear multiple categories:

- 11,121 people aged 18-64 predicted to have a learning disability
- 28,133 people aged 18-64 predicted to have impaired mobility
- 24,233 people aged 18-64 predicted to have a personal care disability
- 4,503 people aged 65 and over predicted to have a learning disability
- 97,036 people aged 65 and over with a limiting long term illness

There is an [estimated NHS England metric](#) for the number of people unable to manage at least one mobility activity on their own. Activities include: going out of doors and walking down the road; getting up and down stairs; getting around the house on the level; getting to the toilet; getting in and out of bed. For the DCC area this is estimated to be:

- 38,472 aged 65+ and
- 27,362 for working age adults (aged 18-64).

We do not have access to the specific details of the type of equipment people use, but there is a wheelchair data collection completed by CCG. For Devon CCG there are currently the [following number of people registered with the wheelchair service:](#)

- 9,511 adults and
- 1,539 children.

This may be an underestimate of the true prevalence as not all people will access a wheelchair through our services.

I am not aware of any work carried out in terms of risk assessment about additional energy needs during the cost of living crisis, in relation to economic vulnerabilities.

Over the last 15 months through DWP funded schemes including around food and fuel poverty, 25000 people in Devon have been directly supported. DWP have announced a grant of a further £5M for Devon from April – September 2022. We will be developing plans with key partners around the distribution of funds, through partners in many cases. The launch letter to the extended scheme outlined: *At least one third of the total funding must be spent on families with children and at least one third must be spent on pensioners. In terms of type of support, the expectation is that the HSF extension should be used in a similar way as the original HSF scheme, with a greater emphasis on supporting households with energy bills. Food and water bills also remain priorities*

In terms of a media campaign, with other partners and the District Council's, this would be a matter for Team Devon.

James McInnes
Cabinet Member
Adult Social Care and Health Services