

# Becoming less eligible? Intellectual disability services in the age of austerity

## School for Social Care Research

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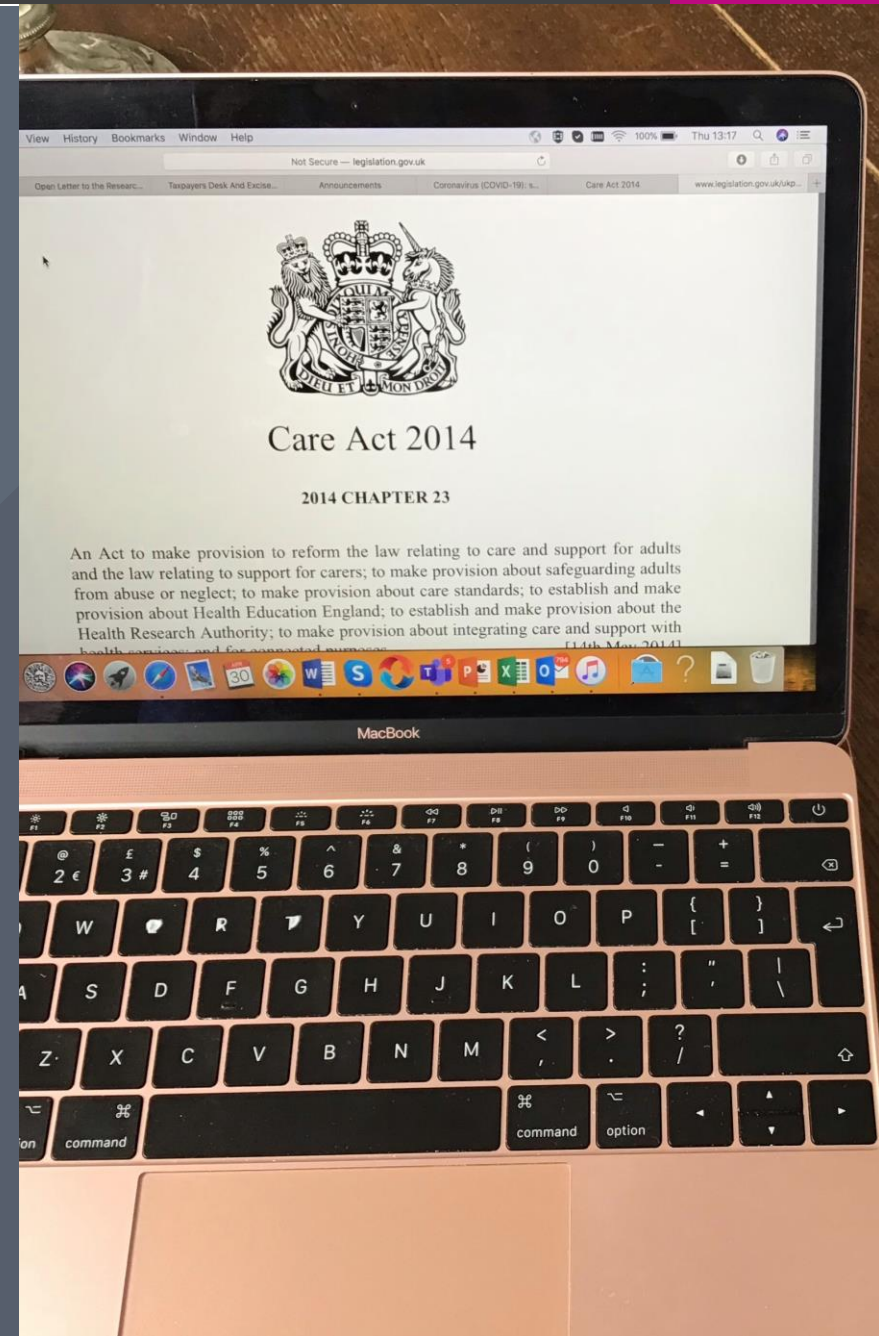
# Care Act 2014: Legal duties of local authorities to:

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- assess people's needs
- develop care plans
- financial assessments
- provide care and support

## ONE UNIVERSAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/tukukpc7ymm4rbf/mencap\\_care.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/tukukpc7ymm4rbf/mencap_care.mp4?dl=0)



We **aimed** to find out: what impact austerity measures had on people with ID?

**Research Team:**

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A **systematic review** of the effects of recent austerity measures on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities (11 empirical studies found, 5 in the UK) showed austerity cuts may have led to poorer outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities.

Malli, M., Sams, L., Forrester-Jones, R., Murphy, G., Henwood, M. (2018) Austerity and the lives of people with learning disabilities. A thematic synthesis of current literature. *Disability & Society*, [doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2018.1497950](https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2018.1497950)

The study gained a favourable **ethical** opinion from the HRA Social Care Research Ethics Committee (SCREC) on 4 May 2017: REC 17/IEC08/0009; IRAS ID 216910.

We interviewed **150 people** with intellectual disabilities about their:

- Quality of Life/Personal Outcomes (Claes et al., 2012)
- Social Networks and activities (Forrester-Jones, 2006)
- Self-esteem (Dagan & Sandhu, 1999)
- Anxiety (Mindham & Espie, 2003)
- Costs of their services (specially adapted Client Service Receipt Inventory (CSSRI, Beecham & Knapp, 2001))
- Space and time for people to tell us about their experiences

## Location

- 58% South
- 19% North
- 10% Midlands
- 13% Greater London

## Type of accommodation

50% on their own/with their family

29% supported living (with staff support)

13% group home with 24hr staff

6% shared lives placement

1% probation hostel



**Average age** = 42 (range 18-79)

**Male** 59%

**Mild / moderate** 87% **Severe** 13%

### **Ethnicity**

94% White British

1% Black African

1% Black Caribbean

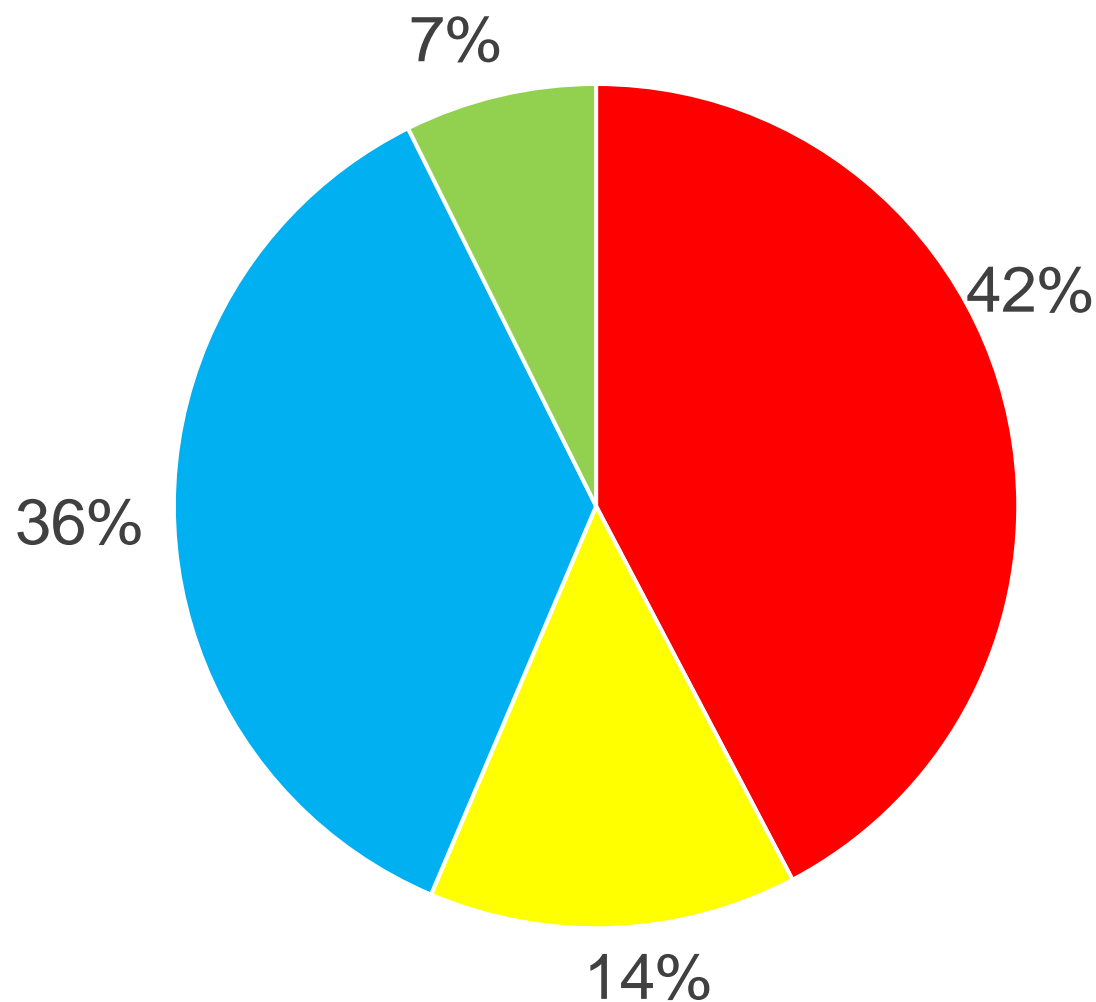
2% Asian

### **Marital/partner status**

88% single



## Care in the last 10 years (149 people)



■ Lost ■ Changed ■ Stayed the same ■ Improved



## Costs

- Mean total costs – around £30,000 per annum (range from £5,000 to over £200,000)
- Mean costs were lowest for those whose care had remained the same (over half of whom lived with their families) where care costs are amongst the lowest anyway (mean £8,269)
- Most expensive - 24 hour staffed residential homes (around £73,000 a year) – about twice the costs for people in supported living.

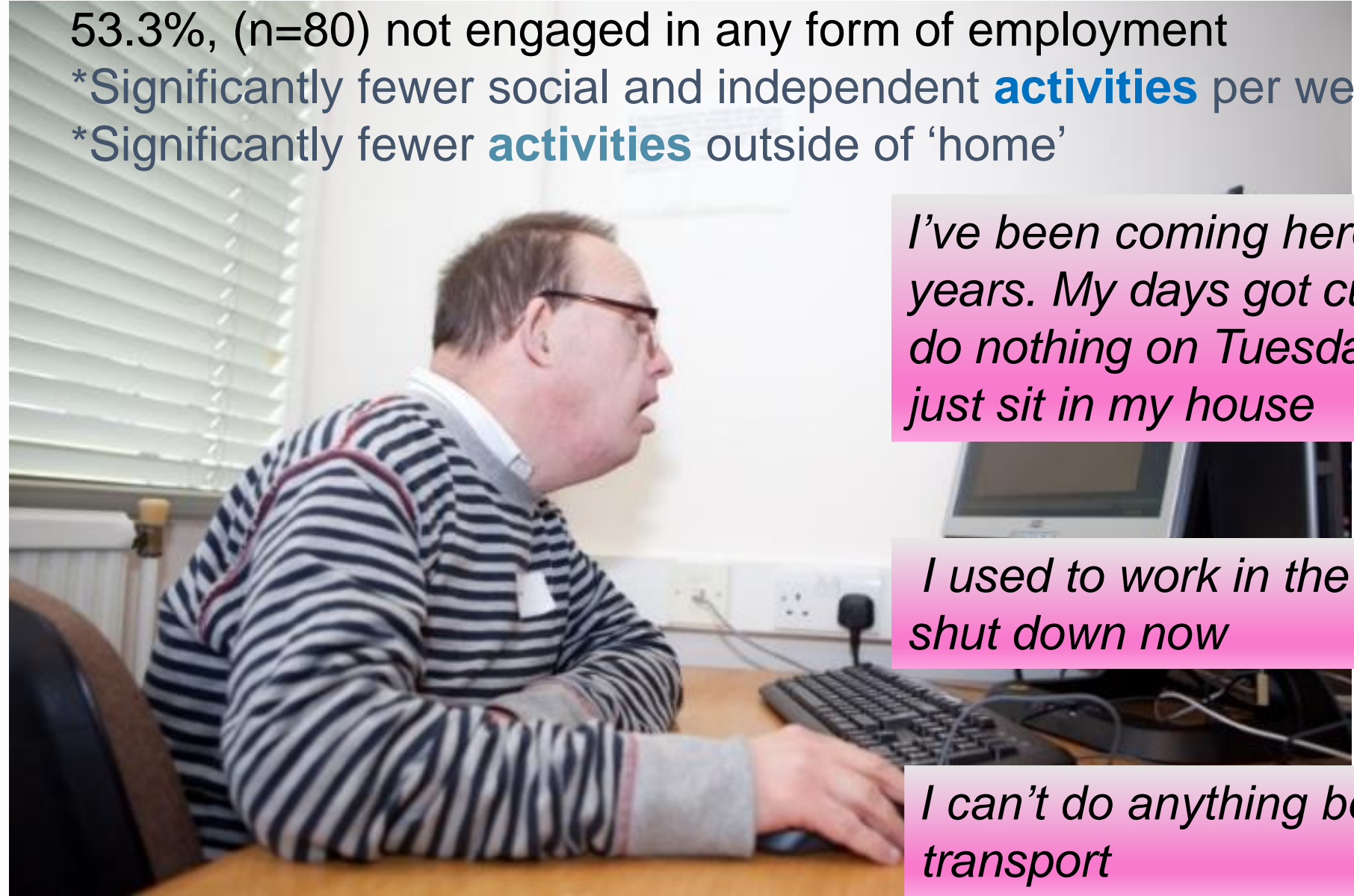
# What life looks like for those who have lost care

53.3%, (n=80) not engaged in any form of employment

\*Significantly fewer social and independent **activities** per week

\*Significantly fewer **activities** outside of 'home'

\*P<0.01



*I've been coming here [day centre] for two years. My days got cut in January. Now I just do nothing on Tuesdays and Thursdays now, I just sit in my house*

*I used to work in the resource centre, this has shut down now*

*I can't do anything because of lack of transport*

# Quality of life, self-esteem, social networks, anxiety

- Those who had lost care had significantly lower scores on the Quality of Life index (including social participation and wellbeing) and lower self-esteem compared with those who had not lost care ( $p < 0.01$ )
- No difference in network size (mean 34; range 4 to 157) ( $n=105$ )
- 46% said they had no one to support them to meet new people or spend time with friends
- Three quarters (74.8%,  $n=95$ ) scored highly for having clinically significant anxiety

*They want you to be independent but I'm scared because if you get more independent it feels like you are going to get less hours*

# Reliance on third sector and family support

Some had been referred to charities by the council or social services if they had lost care. Others relied on their families.

*I live with my parents. I would like to move out. I want to do things myself, wash my own clothes. I could cook if a staff member was there to make sure I didn't burn anything. I have been waiting for a placement for 15 years. Now the council office has closed down. They didn't send me a letter or anything. They have let me down. They can't even be bothered to let me know.*

## Key messages

- **The pressure on LAs to make social care savings is irreconcilable with rising needs of people with Intellectual Disabilities as they get older.**
- **Austerity measures have impacted negatively on the lives of people with Intellectual Disabilities who themselves are aware of their own loss of support – they attribute this to austerity measures**
- **We are starting from after 10 years of reductions in local services, with additional challenges from the impact of COVID-19. These will need to be addressed to support LAs to fulfil their legal duties under the Care Act 2014.**
- **Vast amounts of resources are needed - and the scale of the challenge cannot be under-estimated.**

Thankyou to all the participants