

Learning Disabilities in Children 2018

A learning disability affects the way a person understands information and how they communicate. It is estimated that in 2015 there were 284,135 children (174,020 boys, 110,115 girls) age 0-17 in the UK with a learning disability such as a:

- Moderate learning disability
- Severe learning disability
- Profound & multiple learning difficulties
- Specific learning disability

This means they can have difficulties in:

- understanding new or complex information
- learning new skills
- coping independently

A learning disability can be mild, moderate or severe. Some people with a mild learning disability can talk easily and look after themselves, but take a bit longer than usual to learn new skills. Others may not be able to communicate at all and have more than one disability

Overall in 2015, the percentage of children with primary SEN associated with learning disabilities and a statement/EHC plan being educated in mainstream schools was: 46.3% of children with moderate learning difficulty, 14.1% of children with severe learning difficulty and 14% of children with profound multiple learning difficulty (Source: People with Learning Disabilities in England 2015)

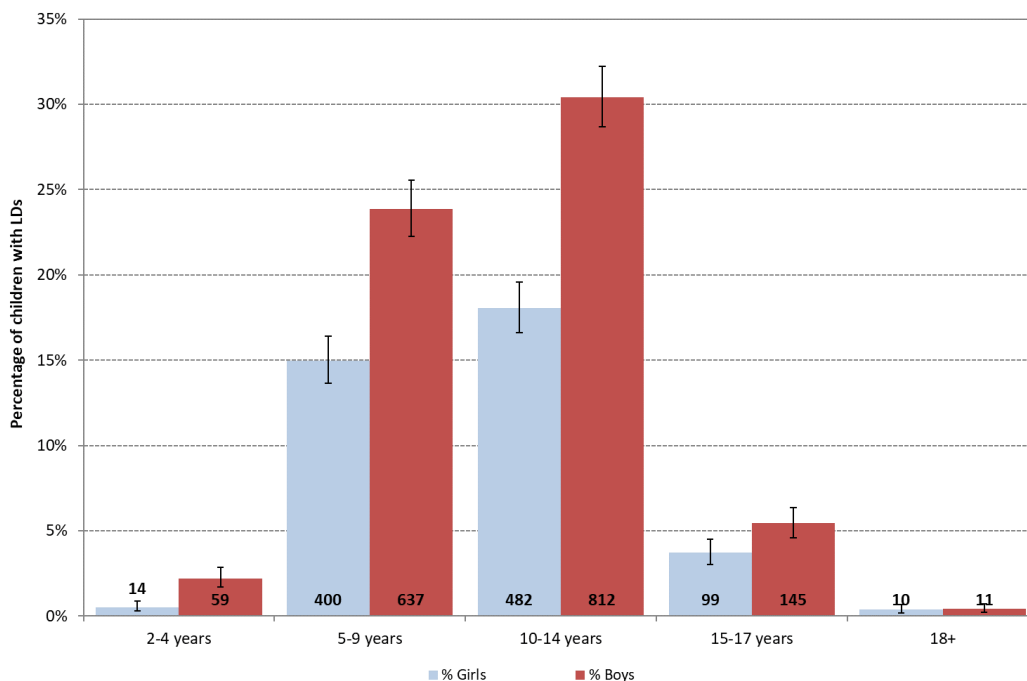
Children with a learning disability in Shropshire

The following information looks at profiling children with a learning disability recorded on the March 2018 Shropshire school census.

Age, gender and ethnicity

In Shropshire, around 62.3% of children with a learning disability are boys and 37.7% are girls. This would support the national figures that suggest that up to 61% of boys have a learning disability compared to 39% of girls. The following chart shows the age and gender of all Shropshire children recorded as having a learning disability. There was a significantly higher proportion of boys compared to girls across all the age bands except for those aged 18+ which was similar. In the 10-14 age band, there was a significantly higher percentage of both girls and boys compared to all the other age bands and a significantly higher percentage of boys compared to girls. The number of children in each category is displayed in the base of the chart columns.

Figure 1 Learning disabilities in children in Shropshire by age and gender 2018



Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

In terms of ethnicity 92% of children on the school census were recorded as being white English. The remaining 8% were from a variety of different ethnic groups (3.8% being from other white groups and the remaining 4.2% either not stated or from other black and minority ethnic groups).

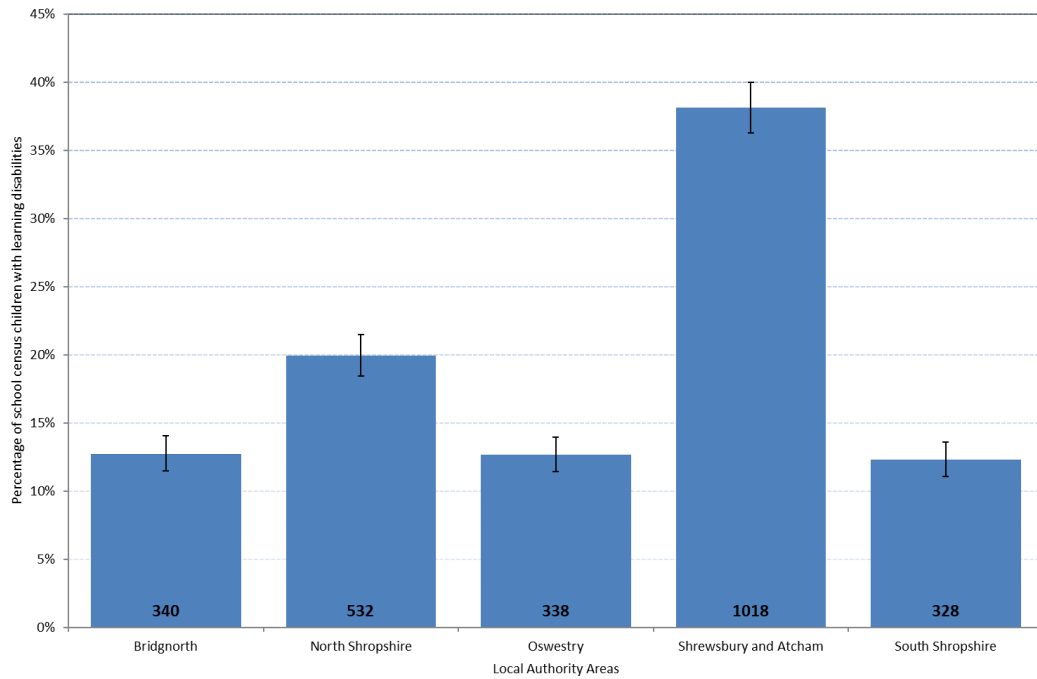
Geographical and socio-economic distribution of children with learning difficulties

Although the Shropshire School Census (March 2018) estimates suggest that around 6.8% of children in Shropshire may have a learning disability it is not evenly distributed in the population. Knowing and understanding more about the geographical and socio-economic distribution of LDs can enable more efficient and appropriate care and enable the needs of children with LDs to be better met.

Around 32% of all children on the school census in Shropshire live in the most rural areas, e.g. villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings. However, 33% of children with a learning disability live in these rural areas, with the remaining 67% living in small towns and urban areas (2.4% were unknown).

Figure 2 shows the proportion of all children with LDs in Shropshire living in each local authority area of the county; the number of children is highlighted in the base of each column. A significantly higher proportion of children came from Shrewsbury & Atcham compared to all the other areas, as the largest population of children live in the Shrewsbury & Atcham area. Although LDs accounted for 6.8% of all children recorded on the school census, the percentage in each area varied from 5.4% in Bridgnorth to 7.9% in Shrewsbury & Atcham

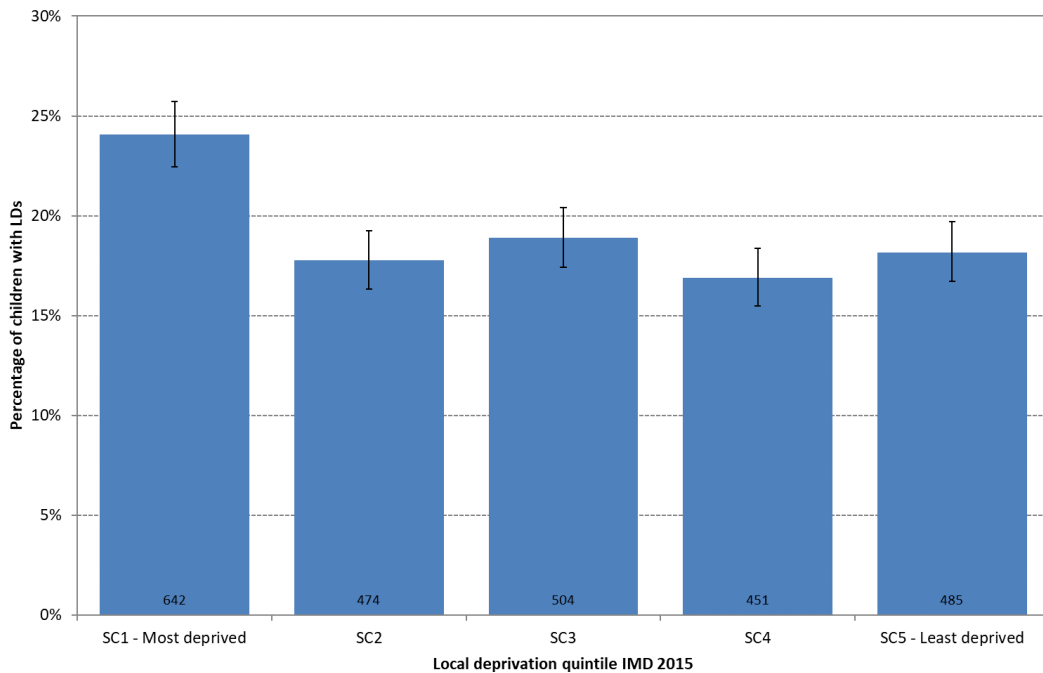
Figure 2 Location of where children with learning difficulties in Shropshire live by former local authority 2018



Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

The following chart shows the relationship between learning disabilities and deprivation in Shropshire. There was a significantly higher proportion of children with LDs living in the most deprived areas of the county compared to all other areas; with a 6% difference between the most and least deprived areas.

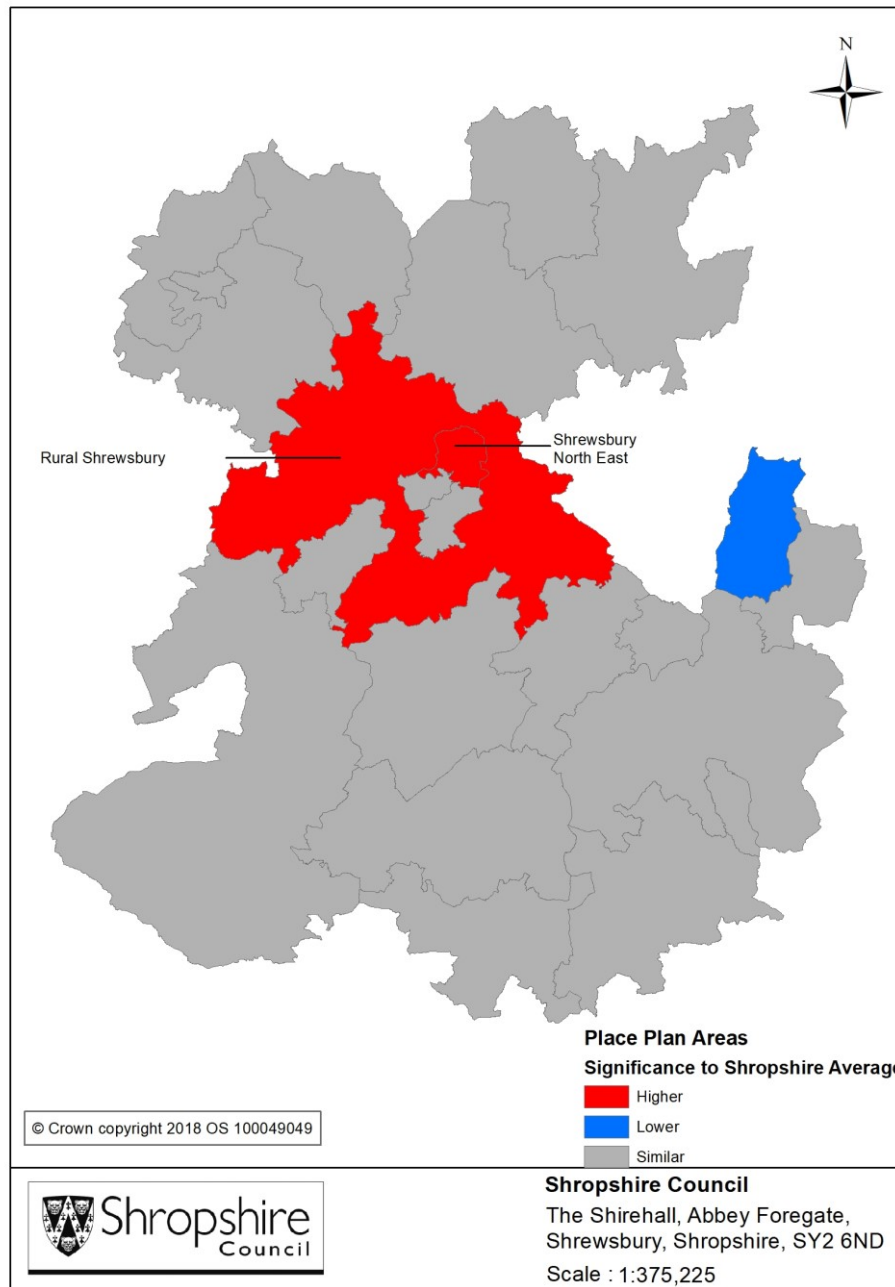
Figure 3 Location of where children with learning disabilities in Shropshire live by deprivation 2018



Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

Figure 4 shows the place plan areas in Shropshire County with a significant difference in learning disability rates compared to the Shropshire average and indicates that areas in North East Shrewsbury and Shrewsbury rural areas had significantly higher rates of LDs compared to the rest of the County.

Figure 4 Map of learning disabilities by Shropshire county place plan areas with a significance to the Shropshire average 2018 (Crude rate per 1000 Population)



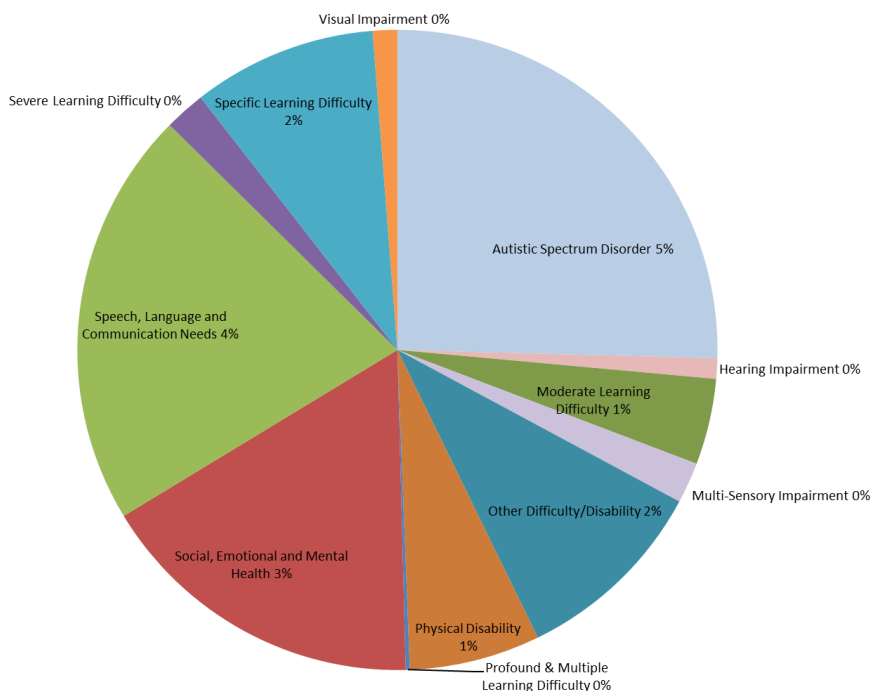
Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

Learning disabilities and multiple vulnerabilities

It is recognised that many people with LDs also have other conditions such as ASD and sensory impairments. Overall in Shropshire 18.1% of children with LDs were also recorded as having another special educational need. The following chart highlights the type and proportion of additional special educational needs of that 18.1% of children recorded on the school census as having LDs in Shropshire.

The most likely additional special educational need of children with LDs in Shropshire was ASD, followed by speech language and communication needs.

Figure 5 Additional special educational needs of children with learning disabilities in Shropshire 2018



Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

Summary

- The recorded prevalence of LDs in children is likely to be higher than that included in this report, as this is based on information from limited sources.
- Boys aged 10-14 years are significantly more likely to be recorded as having LDs, and overall boys are significantly more likely than girls to have LDs which is also reflected nationally.
- There are more children recorded as having LDs living in the most deprived areas compared to other areas of Shropshire.
- Around 18.1% of children recorded as having LDs in Shropshire also have a special educational need; ASD and social, emotional & mental health difficulty being the most likely.

