

## Findings

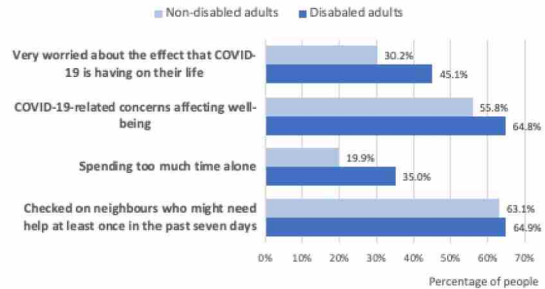
- **Further data on the impact of COVID-19 on disabled people will be key in guiding our response, eg health and employment**
- Both regular official surveys and more immediate, targeted actions are starting to build the data picture
- Data and insights from disability groups has been very valuable, though much is anecdotal
- Indications are that social distancing and lockdown measures are impacting disabled people disproportionately
- VCSE sector organisations are struggling financially and operationally

A survey of (2,713) people **shielding** in England who usually work found that:

- 38% can work from home and are currently working
- 13% can work from home but have stopped or been furloughed
- 32% cannot work from home but can meet financial obligations
- 17% cannot work from home and can't or aren't sure that they can meet financial obligations if they stop work

- DHSC is exploring existing datasets to gain greater insight into, eg health impacts and deaths, and extending the scope of a PHE review into the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 to cover disabled people.
- ONS are adding questions on employment impacts on disabled people eg furloughing and for the self employed to the Labour Force Survey - April-June results expected in August.

## The social impacts of COVID-19 on disabled adults (period 27/3 to 13/04)



Source: ONS, Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain (2020)



#### Findings

- Accessible communications is vital, from both Government and service providers
- Impact assessments and stakeholder insights are vital in understanding the needs of disabled people for the next phase
- There is an opportunity to gain further insight from the lived experience of disabled people's lives
- The Public Sector Equality Duty remains key, for the value it offers not as a bureaucratic step
- Service providers (public and private sector) will need to ensure staff know how to support disabled people

BEIS: Government worked with businesses, unions and others, as well as PHE and the HSE, to draft at pace the guidance on safe return to work that included consideration of the needs of disabled employees and customers.

DFT: revised transport guidance for travellers and operators considers in detail the needs of disabled passengers.

DHSC: scenario work has looked ahead to consider potential issues for disabled people, eg if there is a mass roll out of face-masks how this will impact people with hearing impairments being able to communicate with others?

**Feedback from stakeholders:** *some disability groups have expressed concerns about particular cohorts not being helped through the shielding programme, and that their members are disadvantaged because the supermarkets are offering prioritised delivery slots for shielding individuals.*  
**Action:** DEFRA has secured extra supermarket delivery slots for the dedicated use of those finding difficulty accessing food. These slots are in addition to those set aside for the extremely clinically vulnerable (shielded).

## Next steps

### Members are invited to agree:

- That **we must do more to improve our understanding** in key areas such as health, employment and education
- That **we should continue and strengthen engagement with disability stakeholders**, to gain insight and so we can consider the needs of disabled people from the outset
- That we **make all our communications fully accessible** for disabled people
- That we **search out lessons for the rebuilding strategy and the National Strategy for Disabled People**, to make the UK the best place in the world to be a disabled person
- That, as a next step, each department:
  - develops a **plan for addressing key evidence gaps**
  - **agrees to meet the Disability Unit** to discuss these plans and the other actions
- That **a further check in on progress at MIG** take place in about 6 weeks