

# Impact of Covid on People with Disability



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In July, over 7 in 10 disabled people in England and Wales reported feeling ‘very worried’ or ‘somewhat worried’ about the effect that coronavirus was having on their life (ONS, 2020b).



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# EHRC report October 2020

- Transfer of services online
- Reductions in public transport services
- Healthcare referral rates and waiting time increased
- Access to school hubs for ASN pupils



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# EHRC report October 2020

- Care home residents isolated from their family and friends
- Reductions in the availability of formal care
- 50% increase in unpaid carers



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# Inclusion London report June 2020

- Over 60% of people with disability said they had struggled to access food, medicine and necessities
- Over 35% of respondents talked about increasing levels of psychological distress.
- Nearly half of the respondents talked about inaccessible information, confusing guidance and lack of advice.
- People with disability feel abandoned and neglected
- The right to life and rationing of resources
- Social care is being cut, reduced or failing to provide protective
- Equipment
- The coronavirus pandemic has thrown into stark relief the extent of the discrimination and exclusion people with disability face.



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# Impacts of Covid-19 locally



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# RBC Covid Survey - Services

People with disability said they struggled with or found these services most difficult during lockdown

- Smallmead tip (11.4%)
- Littering and refuse (9.4%)
- Local bus service (8.9%)



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# RBC Covid Survey - Priorities

What's important to you?

People with disability said the following are most important:

- Health services (11.5%)
- Clean streets (8.6%)
- Access to open countryside (8.3%)



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# RBC Covid Survey - Support Needs

People with disability said they are likely to have a greater need for support with:

- food banks (11.3%)
- mental health support (34.5%)
- shopping (19.2%)
- befriending (18.2%)



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# Impacts of Covid-19 for individuals

- Increased anxiety, one managing it by refusing to accept that Covid exists
- One experiencing feelings of agoraphobia which keeps her in her room and eating in the room
- Mother experiences care fatigue
- Lack of meaningful activities



- Poor quality of care and support available but scared to raise the issues due to fear of losing what little is available to them
- Both the parents and the young women feel unsupported and not knowing where to go to get support for their complex needs

(Reading Mencap, 2020).



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# Some of the local services supporting people with disability

## - ENRYCH Berkshire

- supports adults with a physical disability to take part in social, leisure and learning activities.
- advice and information on leisure and activities that are available in the local area;
- 1:1 support from a dedicated team of volunteers;
- social events for members and volunteers to get involved in.
- **All services are FREE of charge**
- **Tel: 0118 929 1675 / Email: [berkshireinfo@enrych.org.uk](mailto:berkshireinfo@enrych.org.uk)**



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# Some of the local services supporting people with disability

## - Reading Mencap

- provides services and support in the Reading area to children and adults with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders.
- runs a day activity service at two venues in Reading as well as groups and clubs and our Family Support Service
- Tel: 0118 966 2518 during office hour /
- Email: [office@readingmencap.org.uk](mailto:office@readingmencap.org.uk)



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# Some of the local services supporting people with disability

- Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre
  - has developed a range of remote support for local people with Multiple Sclerosis. Some services have restarted face-to-face but these are very limited.
  - Full details can be found at <https://www.bmstc.org/covid19>
  - If you have MS and not used the Centre before, please call 0118 901 6000 or Email [ms@bmstc.org](mailto:ms@bmstc.org) to arrange a telephone induction



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# Some of the local services supporting people with disability

## - Reading Deaf Centre

- The Information Officer is working from home and contactable on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - 10 am to 1:30 pm to provide support and services via email / text / sms / face time
- SMS: 07704 687298
- E-mail: [info@readingdeafcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@readingdeafcentre.co.uk)



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# Some of the local services supporting people with disability

- Reading Association for the Blind
  - Covers the needs of Reading's visually impaired residents.
  - Befriending scheme set up for members. Advice and guidance line still open for support and signposting.
  - Offers include specialist equipment, ongoing support for the blind person, their carers and family along with information, advice and counselling and a contribution towards transport costs.
  - Enquiries for children with sight impairment are dealt with at Berkshire Vision.
  - Tel: 0118 957 2960 /
  - E-mail: [manager@raftb.org](mailto:manager@raftb.org)



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# Some of the local services supporting people with disability

- For additional local services including the Local Offer for children with additional needs, visit the Reading Services Guide [www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide](http://www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide)
- Local providers have been keeping their listing up to date in response to the Covid 19 national restrictions



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