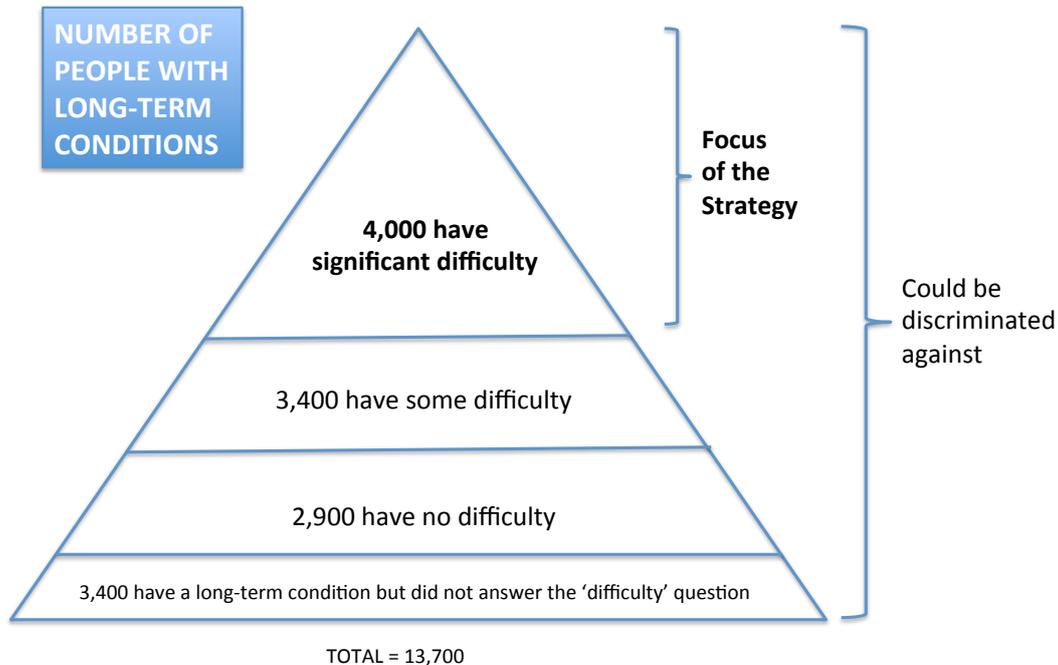


How can there be thousands of disabled people in Guernsey?



500 claim Attendance Allowance (Severe Disability Benefit) paid to those who need more than 35 hours a week of care

The States of Guernsey Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion Survey 2012 was sent to 6,500 homes in Guernsey and Alderney. Over 2,000 households responded.

The respondents were asked if anyone in their household has a long-term or substantial health condition that has lasted (or will last) at least 12 months.

Respondents were then asked to what extent each person identified had difficulty with everyday activities.

The data indicates that 4,000 people in Guernsey and Alderney have significant difficulty with everyday activities. This is the group that is the main focus of the Strategy.

Although they are not the focus of support and services at present, it is still important for States Departments to know the number of islanders who have a long-term condition but have some or no difficulty at present. The detailed research data will help them plan for the future.

The survey indicates that the total number of people with a long-term condition in the Bailiwick is 13,700. Anyone within this group could be discriminated against because of their long-term condition and would therefore be protected by disability equality law when it is brought into force in the islands.

EXAMPLE:

Alex is told by his doctor that he has a minor heart condition and he needs to take pills to control it. The pills are effective and he feels in good health. A few months later he is turned down for a promotion at work, despite having all the skills required. His boss tells him that she was concerned that his health problems would mean he couldn't take on the amount of business travel required.

Alex's heart condition does not cause him any difficulty but he has been discriminated against because of it. He is one of the 13,700 islanders who are not the main focus of the Strategy, but would still benefit from the protection offered by disability equality legislation.

EXAMPLE:

Mary has had a tumour removed from her brain. Because of the scarring, she frequently has intense headaches that last several days. Her hearing and balance have been affected and she has epilepsy.

Mary needs ongoing support from the pain clinic and the neuro-physiotherapist, plus financial support from the benefits system as she cannot work. She finds it hard to leave the house so a volunteer drives her to drop-in session run by a local charity once a week.

Mary is one of the 4,000 people who are the focus of the Strategy.

How many carers are there?

Nearly 1 in 10 households (8%) in Guernsey have at least one person who provides informal or unpaid care for a family member, relative or friend.

This adds up to 2,000 households, some of which may have more than one carer.