



**Shetland
Islands
Council**

Understanding Disability in Shetland



A look at life for disabled people in Shetland



This profile is about **disability** in Shetland. It was made by Shetland Islands Council in 2025. It helps us understand what life is like for disabled people.



The **Equality Act 2010** is a law that protects people from being treated unfairly. It covers things like **age**, **disability**, and **race**. It's against the law to treat someone unfairly because of these things.



In 2022, most people in Shetland with long-term health problems were over 65. This is similar to other places like Scotland and Orkney.



More women than men in Shetland said they had a **mental health** condition in 2022. This was different from 2011 when more men reported this.



Since 2011, more people have said their daily activities are limited by a health problem. Fewer people say their activities are not limited.



Adult Disability Payment (Scotland)

People with disabilities in Scotland are less likely to have jobs compared to those without disabilities. In 2022, only about half of disabled adults had jobs.



Housing Benefit

Disabled people in Scotland are more likely to have low incomes. Many live in poverty, especially if someone in their home is disabled.



Nearly one in four working-age people in the UK are disabled. Many have **mental health** problems.



The number of **disability hate crimes** in Scotland has gone up. In 2023/24, there were 903 charges, the highest since 2010.



Disabled people in Scotland have lower **mental wellbeing** scores than those without disabilities. This means they might feel less happy or healthy.



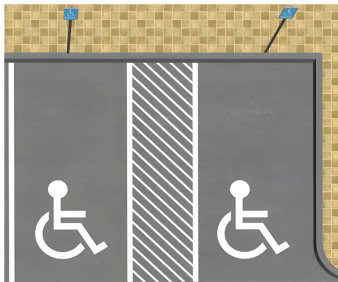
Some disabled people face **discrimination** and **harassment**. In Shetland, 11% of disabled adults said they experienced this in the last year.



People in Shetland want better **transport** services. This includes more buses and better access for wheelchairs.



Travelling outside Shetland can be hard for disabled people. They want more healthcare appointments in Shetland.



Disabled people in Shetland want better **access** to buildings and more **disabled parking**. They also want more public toilets.



Some people in Shetland face **discrimination** when trying to get jobs. They want more chances to learn skills and find work.



In the Shetland community, some people feel there is a **stigma** because of their disability. They want more support and understanding.



People feel mostly safe in Shetland but want more street lights and safer roads.



Disabled people in Shetland want more **social activities** like discos and sports. They also want more walking paths and trees.



The **cost of living** is a problem for disabled people in Shetland. They need more financial help for things like travel and home adaptations.



When travelling for NHS appointments, the NHS helps with costs if a support worker is needed. But for personal trips, disabled people pay all costs.