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**UK Research
and Innovation**



Socially Inclusive Ageing across the Lifecourse



Socially inclusive ageing: a life-course study of new ageing populations

Being socially healthy, not being lonely or isolated, having strong relationships and feeling part of the local community, promotes the health and wellbeing of older people. People with good social health live longer than those with poor social health, have better physical and mental health and are less likely to drink alcohol to excess, smoke or be sedentary and not physically active. Promoting and supporting good social relationships is one way to contribute to a key government policy, the health ageing grand challenge, which aims to increase healthy active life by five years by 2035 and reduce the up to 20-year difference in this between the most and least privileged groups in Britain.

Our understanding of the social health of older people is limited because research often excludes certain groups of older people. Our project includes three groups of older adults who may have experienced significant discrimination across their life-course which may have affected their social health in later life. Our first group are those people who migrated from the Caribbean/Indian sub-continent to the UK between 1950-1975. These people often came for work and never intended to grow old here. Our second group are those ageing with disabilities, physical or mental that they have had from birth or acquired during childhood. Due to increases in survival rates, people born with cerebral palsy or Down syndrome can now expect to live, on average, into their 60's. Our third group are older adults who identify as LGBTQ+.

Unfortunately, services designed to improve social health rarely work. We think this is because they measure social health at *one* time point. Using existing survey data we will compare social health and how it changes over time for people aged 40 and older from our 3 groups and compare this with the experiences of people of the same age and gender drawn from the wider community. This way, we can map the pathways into and out of poor social health; the characteristics of those groups who move /into and out of poor social health, and the events that are linked to these changes (e.g., divorce) or other things like wealth or involvement in community spaces. We will also conduct interviews with people from each of our three groups to understand their experiences of ageing and their social health through the stories they have to tell.

The information from our project will collect may help us to design services, policies and interventions that are timelier and more tailored to the needs of individual older people, helping to promote a healthier and more active old age. We will work together with older people, those who develop policies and service providers to pull together the things we have learned and share it with as many people as possible. We will work with older adults and service providers to develop resources such as guidelines and toolkits, and networks for sharing information. This will allow more people to use the results of our research and help design better services.

Meet the project team



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Key moments in disability history

3500–100 BCE

- In Ancient Egypt, people with disabilities were sometimes treated with respect, but some believe that diseases and disabilities were the work of demons inside a person's body.
- In a papyrus (in the British Museum in London) the following instructions are found: *'Beware of robbing a wretch or attacking a cripple. Do not laugh at a blind man, nor tease a dwarf, nor cause hardship for the lame. Don't tease a man who is in the hand of the god'*
- Dwarves were especially well regarded in Ancient Egypt. They attained high rank in the dynasties indicated by their elaborate burials close to the Pyramids of the Kings.
- A very precious and prevalent household god, Bes, was a dwarf assigned the job of protecting the mother and child in childbearing.
- During birth, Bes would be imagined dancing about the room to scare away evil spirits who might put a curse on the child.
- It is believed that Siptah, an Egyptian Pharaoh who ruled from around 1196 to 1190 BC, had the first discovered case of Cerebral Palsy.

200–100 BCE

- Numerous references in the Old Testament associate disability with sin. God tells Moses: *'None of your descendants...shall draw near a blind or lame man, or he that hath a mutilated face or a limb too long, or man that has an injured foot or an injured hand, or a hunchback or dwarf or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be with scurvy, or scabbed.'* (Leviticus 21: 16–20).
- However, the Bible also contains what might be the world's earliest example of anti-discrimination legislation: *'Thou shalt not curse the deaf nor put a stumbling block before the blind, nor maketh the blind to wander out of the path.'* (Leviticus 19:14).

2000 BCE – 323 BCE

- In Babylon, the births of children with congenital impairments were used to predict the future.
- In Ancient Greece, the birth of a child with disabilities was interpreted as a punishment on the parents by the gods.
- In Sparta, deformed and sickly infants had to be abandoned by law, and a child later found to be an *'idiot'* would also be abandoned. Lycurgus decrees that children are state property and that those born *'puny and ill-shaped'* should be *'disposed of'*.
- In Ancient Rome, there were similar views and babies with disabilities could be legally exposed, sometimes being abandoned in clay jars in temples or out on the road. Disabled children were drowned, while people considered to be *'mentally defective'* are prohibited from marrying.
- Plato's Republic introduces the concept of eugenics.
- Aristotle says that *'those born deaf become senseless and incapable of reason.'*

100–200 CE

There is an emphasis in the New Testament on cure and healing, as disabled people become the focus of Christ's miracles



500-1500 CE

- The Jewish Talmud suggests that impairment is a holy state and a means of getting to heaven; those that help disabled people are similarly blessed. In the Jewish Torah, people are forbidden from serving God if they are disabled or tameh (polluted).
- In medieval England, the 'lepre', the 'blynde', the 'dumbe', the 'deaff', the 'natural fool', the 'creple', the 'lame' and the 'lunatick' were a highly visible presence in everyday life.
- People with leprosy are quarantined in 'leprosariums' throughout Europe, an early example of the confinement and segregation of disabled people.
- The Arabs in Baghdad establish asylums for people with mental distress, viewing mental illness as divinely inspired.
- Attitudes to disability were mixed; some thought it was a punishment for sin, or the result of being born under the hostile influence of the planet Saturn. Others believed that disabled people were closer to God - suffering purgatory on earth rather than after death and would get to heaven sooner.
- People with disabilities lived in their communities, either with their families or in convents/monasteries, though some lived on the streets and begged.
- There are 13th century documents distinguishing between people with learning disabilities ('*natural fools*') and people with mental illness ('*lunatics*'), but this distinction was not always recognised.
- In 1247, the Priory of St Mary of Bethlehem was founded, devoted to healing sick paupers. It became known as Bethlehem Hospital. Londoners abbreviated this to '*Bethlem*' and often pronounced it '*Bedlam*'. Built on the site that's now Liverpool Street station, the hospital consisted of a single storey and covered two acres. Centred around a courtyard with a chapel in the middle, it had approximately 12 '*cells*' for patients, kitchen, staff accommodation and an exercise yard. It remained here for 400 years until 1676 when it moved to Moorfields.
- In 1346, as the hospital struggled to survive, the City of London agreed to take it over. Its specialisation in '*madness*' gave it a future, although patients also included people with learning disabilities, '*falling sickness*' (epilepsy) and dementia.
- The monks accepted patients with symptoms of mental illness rather than physical disability or disease.
- By 1403, '*lunatic*' patients formed the majority of the hospital's clients - and so England's first, and most infamous, mental institution was born.
- The hospital regime was a mixture of punishment and religious devotion (chains, manacles, locks and stocks appear in the hospital inventory). Corporal punishment was believed to cure some conditions, and isolation was thought to help a person '*come to their senses*'. At the same time, it was their religious duty to care for people afflicted by '*madness*'.
- People with learning disabilities are sometimes depicted in the art of the past. Andrea Mantegna, an artist of the 15th century, included people who appear to have Down syndrome in his paintings.

1300-1500s

- In Aztec society, the royal zoo included a display of disabled people who live on scraps of food tossed in their cages.
- The Renaissance period of art and culture in Europe revives the Greek and Roman obsession with physical beauty and perfection.
- An English law allows discrimination between the '*deserving*' and '*undeserving*' poor claiming alms. Specific reference is made to disabled people.
- For the next two centuries older and disabled people depend on charity for survival.
- The Priory of St Mary of Bethlehem in London is confiscated by King Edward III and used for '*lunatics*'. Conditions are harsh, inhumane and filthy and the public is allowed to come and gawp at the inhabitants as a tourist attraction. The name '*Bedlam*' becomes associated with chaos and disorder.
- A Royal Ordinance decrees that lepers leave the City of London and '*betake themselves to places in the country*'.
- In medieval art and medical texts '*lunatics*', as well as other disabled people, are portrayed as unkempt, frenzied and dishevelled.
- Bigotry and ignorance under the guise of medical science lead to religious hysteria, prejudice and the murder of disabled people across Catholic Europe, especially during the time of Pope Alexander I.
- Henry Tudor exploits the new technology of printing in order to pillory and caricature his rival, the disabled king Richard III (1452-1485).
- 8-20 million people, mainly women, are put to death across Europe, accused of being witches. Many are disabled women whose impairment is seen as the badge of their evil. Others are the mothers of disabled children.
- Various symptoms of mental illness are ascribed to witchcraft. It becomes a common practice for '*mad-doctors*' to chisel a hole in the skulls of their patients to '*let the devil escape*'. This ritual purification is called '*pharmakos*' - from the same root as our word 'pharmaceutical'.

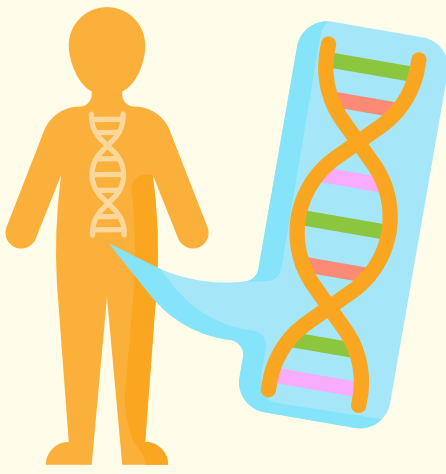


1600s

- Dr Issac Hawes writes: *'Maniacs recover much sooner if they are treated with torture instead of with medicines.'*
- When Henry VIII split from the Roman Church, he ordered the *'Dissolution of the Monasteries'*. Religious houses were demolished and monks and nuns driven out. Hospitals in these buildings were lost, along with the systems of care they had provided for sick and disabled people.
- In London, new hospitals were built and some were re-founded. These were increasingly public buildings, funded by parish collections, taxes and donations.
- Elizabethan Poor Laws (1601) gave local parishes the responsibility to provide accommodation in a poorhouse for destitute people with disabilities (the *'impotent poor'*).
- Poor Law Acts punished *'sturdy vagabonds'* who were seen as idle by choice. They could be whipped and branded. But the *'impotent poor'* were viewed differently. *'The person naturally disabled, either in wit or member, as an idiot, lunatic, blind, lame etc., not being able to work...all these... are to be provided for by the overseers of necessary relief and are to have allowances ... according to...their maladies and needs.'*
- Few people we would recognise today as having learning disabilities enjoyed a privileged life at court, with a *'keeper'* who looked after them. These *'natural fools'* were seen as an important source of wisdom and humour. They provided a welcome contrast to the plotting and treachery at court.
- The Great Plague of London (1664): The gap between disabled people and the rest of the community was reduced, as larger numbers of people experienced illness, impairment, exclusion and poverty.

1660–1832

- New explanations were challenging the idea that God or astrology caused madness and disability.
- Madness no longer seen as possession of the soul; it was the loss of reason, and this could be restored with the right treatment. A disabled person had suffered a misfortune and deserved charity.
- Support for people with disabilities was mostly an individual's Christian and civic duty, not the state's. The parish may give poor relief, but only if destitute as well as disabled. As a disabled person in society, life was often harsh and brutal (like everyone else's).
- After the Great Fire of London, rich traders and merchants built new hospitals.
- The Royal Chelsea and Greenwich hospitals for disabled soldiers and sailors were built.
- Quakers in York created the York Retreat, their own modest, gentle, asylum regime, based on a belief that the disabled and the mentally ill could thrive in healthy, clean institutions.
- The private madhouse emerged; these were ordinary houses that catered for the mentally distressed of *'the better sort'*.
- In the US, Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, Virginia is recognised as the first state to establish an institution for the mentally ill (then referred to as *"lunatics, the insane, feeble-minded, madmen, and idiots"*). Over the next two centuries, hundreds of thousands of developmentally disabled children and adults are institutionalised, many for life. While institutionalisation was not forced, parents were often strongly encouraged to institutionalise their children and told to forget about them.
- Phillippe Pinel and Jean-Baptiste Pussin are credited as being the first in Europe to remove restraints and introduce more humane methods into the treatment of the mentally ill (which came to be known as moral treatment) at the Asylum de Bicêtre in Paris, France.
- At the end of the century, the charity school movement for the education of poor children led to the founding of the first specialist schools for *'deaf and dumb'* and blind children. These were based on a belief in civic order and progress.



1832–1909

- The 19th Century is the time when buildings designed for disabled people 'boomed'. The industrial revolution had a dramatic impact on the English landscape; towns, factories, railways and mills quickly replaced fields and villages. The high walls and chimneys of a new county pauper lunatic asylum began to dominate the view.
- Following the 1834 Poor Law Act, 350 new workhouses were built, one every 20 miles. Earlier workhouses had housed the destitute disabled of the local parish, and their buildings were of a more humane design.
- The new workhouses were designed to root out '*shirkers and scroungers*'. They were intended as miserable places to live with harsh work regimes. The able-bodied poor avoided them if possible, so disabled and mentally ill people were moved into them.
- At the beginning of the 19th century, a few hundred people were living in nine small charitable asylums. By 1900, $\pm 100,000$ '*idiots and lunatics*' were in 120 county pauper asylums, plus 10,000 in workhouses.
- There was a new class of medical professional, the '*alienist*' (later known as a '*psychiatrist*'). At first, alienists believed asylums were peaceful places where patients could be restored by '*moral treatment*'. But by the end of the century, they had lost their '*therapeutic optimism*' and believed that most patients were '*incurable*'. The asylums contained '*chronic*' and dangerous cases, and most inmates never left.
- 1845 Lunacy Act made no clear distinction between learning disability and mental illness stating that '*Lunatic shall mean insane person or any person being idiot or lunatic or of unsound mind.*'
- 1847: The Charity for the Asylum of Idiots is established in London.
- Dr. John Little is recognised as the first person to study cerebral palsy (CP) and define it in 1853. At that time, the diagnosis was referred to as "*Little's Disease*" or "*cerebral paralysis.*" Dr. Little presented his research to the Obstetrical Society of London, where he provided the first concept of CP. British neurologist, Sir. William Gower expanded on Little's work by linking paralysis in newborns to difficult births.
- 1866: English physician John Langdon Down first describes Down Syndrome, recognising it as a distinct type of mental disability.
- In 1883, Sir Francis Galton coins the term "*eugenics*" in his book *Essays in Eugenics*. Americans embrace the eugenics movement by passing laws to prevent people with disabilities from moving to the U.S., marrying or having children. Eugenics laws lead to the forced institutionalisation and forced sterilisation of disabled adults and children.
- 1886 Idiots Act: for the first time legislation dealing with the educational needs of those with learning disability. It made a clear distinction between lunatics on one hand and '*idiots*' and '*imbeciles*' on the other.
- 1890 Lunacy Act again muddied distinctions between learning disability and mental illness.
- Dr. Sigmund Freud was the first to state that CP might be caused by abnormal development before birth. He hypothesised that something might have occurred during fetal development and that CP was associated with other disorders, such as intellectual disabilities, visual impairments, and seizures. In 1893, *On the Knowledge About Cerebral Diplegias of the Childhood Age* was published.
- In 1907, Indiana adopts eugenics legislation legalising sterilisation practices.
- Connecticut follows suit in 1909 and a eugenics movement begins in California targeting non-Nordic people through coercive sterilisation, marriage restrictions, and forcible segregation of different races and populations.

1911

The National Insurance Act passed, forming a system to fund health insurance for industrial workers and unemployment and sickness benefits. This marked the start of the modern social welfare system in the UK.

1915

- Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton founded initially as a military convalescence hospital for servicemen who had lost limbs in WWI.
- A group of blind boys make a night-time 'escape' from the Mount School for the Blind and Deaf in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire. They wanted to contribute to the war effort by working on a farm but they were caught. Back at school, they were forced to hand in their trousers each night to stop them escaping again. They were also placed with the deaf children as a punishment; the blind children couldn't see, and the deaf children couldn't hear, so they struggled to communicate.

1918

- By the end of WWI, almost one million servicemen had been killed and nearly two million had been permanently disabled – over 40,000 had lost a limb. All needed medical treatment, ongoing care, work or financial support.
- The Education Act made schooling for all children with disabilities compulsory, giving them the right to education. However, many institutions that schooled children with disabilities were harsh and segregated them from the rest of society.
- The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) set up a network of 'Sunshine Homes' which pioneered liberal and progressive teaching and care methods. The first was opened in 1918 in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, with an intake of 25 blind infants.

1921

There were now more than 300 institutions for blind, deaf, 'crippled', tubercular and epileptic children.

1913

The *Mental Deficiency Act of 1913* categorises people with learning disabilities and mental health issues as 'idiots', 'imbeciles', 'feeble-minded' or 'moral defectives'. Gradually, unmarried mothers begin to be placed in this 'moral defective' category too. Many people acquire their diagnosis of mental deficiency because of extreme childhood adversity or institutional care. The Act leads to many more people with learning difficulties being incarcerated.

1916

The Star and Garter in Richmond, Surrey, opens as a home for disabled soldiers and sailors.

1917

The film *The Black Stork* is released. Inspired by the case of Dr. Harry Haiselden, it features a Chicago surgeon who convinces the parents of a newborn with multiple disabilities to let the child starve to death instead of performing surgery that would save its life.

1919

In response to the thousands of injured soldiers returning from WWI, the Central Council for the Care of Cripples was set up. The organisation still exists today as Disability Rights UK.

1920

- The public raised funds for 12 new cottages in Sprowston, Norwich for disabled members of the Royal Norfolk Regiment.
- At a conference on the care of 'crippled' children, it was claimed that provision for the war disabled had caused 'an appalling amount of suffering' among other disabled people.

1924

The Commonwealth of Virginia passes a state law that allows for sterilisation (without consent) of individuals found to be: "feeble-minded, insane, depressed, mentally handicapped, epileptic and other." Alcoholics, criminals and drug addicts are also sterilised.

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1927

- Supreme Court case, *Buck v. Bell*, rules that it is not a violation of the constitutional rights of disabled people to forcibly sterilise them against their will. The Supreme Court has never officially overturned this decision, but in subsequent years, federal and state courts have severely criticized and questioned the legal reasoning underlying the decision.
- 1927 Mental Deficiency (Amendment) Act: replaced the term '*moral defective*' with '*moral imbecile*'; crucially allowed for mental deficiency resulting from illness or accident - previously it had to have been there from birth.

1939

- When WW2 began, many employed people signed up to fight. There was now an urgent shortage of workers and the Ministry of Labour launched a recruitment drive. It was aimed at people who had been considered unfit for work. Life was about to change again for people with disabilities.
- Hitler orders widespread "*mercy killing*" of the sick and disabled. The Nazi euthanasia program (code-name Aktion T4) is instituted to eliminate "*life unworthy of life.*"

1944

- The 1944 Disability Employment Act promised sheltered employment, reserved occupations and employment quotas for disabled people.
- Initiatives to restore the fitness, mobility, daily living skills and morale of disabled servicemen and women spread to the rest of the disabled population.
- 1944 Education Act is passed and enters into effect.
- 1944 Disabled Persons' Employment Act is passed and enters into effect.

1930

- Julian Huxley, secretary of the London Zoological Society and chairman of the Eugenics Society wrote: '*What are we going to do? Every defective man, woman and child is a burden. Every defective is an extra body for the nation to feed and clothe, but produces little or nothing in return.*'
- In the early 20th century, many public figures agreed with the idea of Eugenics. They believed that anyone disabled or '*deficient*' was a threat to the '*health of the nation*'. The aim of eugenics was to eliminate human physical and mental defects altogether, in order to build a stronger society. People with disabilities would be segregated from everyone else in the name of '*perfecting*' the human race.
- Between 1900 and 1945, up to half a million children had a physical disability or sensory impairment, mainly due to poverty and disease. There were no vaccinations, and many working class families couldn't afford specialist equipment or treatment.
- Everyone now had the right to education. Schools for '*crippled*', blind and deaf children could be harsh but there were some new approaches. Progressive '*sunshine homes*' looked after blind children, and '*open air*' schools were believed to improve children's health.
- Disabled children were trained for low-skilled work, but most people thought they would never find a job.



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1946

- The National Cripples Journal denounced the government's promise of "*security from cradle to grave*", claiming that it did nothing for "*the civilian cripple, who is incapable of earning a living*". If there was going to be a bold new society fit for all, disabled people must be a part of that *'all'*.
- The National Association for Mental Health and the National Association of Parents of Backward Children were formed, later becoming MIND and Mencap respectively. The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, British Epilepsy Association, the Spastics Society (now Scope) and hundreds of others soon followed.
- The Egham Industrial Rehabilitation Centre in Surrey opened to civilians. It offered '*vocational guidance and purposeful training*', particularly in building work, shoe repair and retail distribution. Roffey Park in Sussex specialised in supporting workers with mental health issues. St Dunstan's in Regent's Park, London continued to work with blind ex-servicemen, as did the RNIB with the rest of the blind population.
- National Insurance – Industrial Injuries Act (1946) – extra benefits for people injured at work.

1949

The number of registered disabled persons in Great Britain on 17th October, 1949 was 935,009, of whom 65,367 were recorded as unemployed, including 10,318 classified as severely disabled and needing sheltered employment.

1950

In 1950, the games are named the *Stoke Mandeville Festival of Sport*, and 10,000 people watched a wheelchair netball match at the Empress Hall in west London. People with disabilities caused by industrial accidents, many of them miners from the north of England, began to take part.

1953

Nearly half the NHS' hospital beds were for '*mental illness or mental defect*'. Concerns about the level of spending were likely to be a factor in shifting government thinking towards Community Care policies.

1945

- As WW2 ended, the horrors emerged, including the mass killing of disabled people in Germany.
- In reaction to Nazi abuses the pre-war '*eugenicist*' theories which had argued for the isolation and sterilisation of people with disabilities became increasingly reviled.
- In England, public concern shifted to the 300,000 ex-servicemen and women and civilians who had been left disabled by the war.
- The existing disabled population was increased by 300,000 war-disabled people and mobility and access in towns and cities were now urgent issues.
- National Insurance Act: unemployment pay for six months and sick pay for as long as you were sick.

1948

- On the 5th July 1948, healthcare is no longer exclusive to those who could afford it but is accessible to all: the National Health Service is born.
- The NHS is launched by then-Minister of Health in Attlee's post-war government, Aneurin Bevan, at the Park Hospital in Manchester.
- National Assistance Act (1948) – benefits for anybody in need. Mandated local authorities to provide residential facilities and services for people '*who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity*'.
- The first Paralympic Games were held in Stoke Mandeville. This coincided with the 1948 London Olympic games. An archery competition took place on the lawns of Stoke Mandeville against a team from the Star and Garter residential home. There were 16 competitors including two women. It was predicted that one day it would become the disabled person's equivalent of the Olympics.

1951

- 800 members of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association took part in a '*silent reproach*' march to 10 Downing Street.
- National Council for Civil Liberty's 50,000 Outside the Law highlighted affront to civil liberties represented by detention of '*mental defectives*'.

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1959

- 1959 Mental Health Act (England and Wales; 1960 Scotland) repealed the Mental Deficiency Acts: espoused 'community care' but little funding; and said that patients should only be admitted on a voluntary basis unless seen as a danger to themselves or others (subsequently known as being 'sectioned').
- 'Subnormal' and 'severely subnormal' terms used in 1959 Act.
- 'Backward' came into vogue as a descriptive term.

1963

- President Kennedy begins a movement to deinstitutionalise disabled people by asking for a decrease "*over a number of years and by hundreds of thousands, [in the number] of persons confined*" in institutions and that people invent other ways to "*to remain in and return to the community the mentally ill and mentally retarded, and thereto restore and revitalise their lives through better health programs and strengthened educational and rehabilitation services.*"
- The first known support group for families of children with Down syndrome in the United States, the Mongoloid Development Council, incorporates in the state of Illinois.

1965

The Social Security Amendments of 1965 create Medicare and Medicaid. These programs provide healthcare to elderly and disabled people. The definition of disability changes from "*of long continued and indefinite duration*" to "*expected to last for not less than 12 months.*"

1966

- The President's Committee on Mental Retardation is established by President Johnson intended to help with early diagnosis and treatment, environmental and medical prevention, identification of legal and human rights, and increased public awareness.
- Christmas in Purgatory by Burton Blatt and Fred Kaplan documented conditions at state institutions (in several East coast states that were not named) for people with developmental disabilities. This book helped shape the opinions of the president's committee on mental retardation and subsequent legislation.

1956

Newly qualified architect, Selwyn Goldsmith, (disabled through polio) devoted his life to overcoming what he called '*architectural disability*'. He challenged the '*institutional discrimination*' of buildings which placed barriers in the way of disabled people who wanted to use them. His '*Designing for the Disabled*' (1963) was the first guidance for architects on disability access and it quickly became an indispensable teaching aid for architects and local authority planners.

1961

- President John F. Kennedy, before his inauguration, creates a transition task force focused on mental retardation. He establishes the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (still in existence today), the institute was charged with conducting and supporting research on mental retardation as well as all aspects of maternal and child health and human development.
- Enoch Powell, Minister of Health, says mental hospitals to close in 15 years.

1964

- Selwyn Goldsmith selects Norwich as a representative English city and lives there for three years. He interviewed 284 people with disabilities, asking them which types of building should be made easier for disabled people to use. The highest priority was public toilets, as well as restaurants, local shops, and churches. Overall reflecting the desire of disabled people to lead the ordinary lives that other people led.
- This resulted in England's first unisex, disabled-access public toilet (on Castle Hill in Norwich), 15 ramped kerbs around the city - a feature invented by Selwyn, now standard around the world - and a revised edition of '*Designing for the Disabled*'.
- The Civil Rights Act, signed by President Johnson, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin and creed. The Act outlaws discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations and employment as well as in federally assisted programs. The act does not protect disabled people.

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1970

- The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act was passed, giving rights to people with disabilities to receive a range of services from local authorities, such as welfare and housing.
- Disabled campaigners such as the sociologist Michael Oliver and disability studies pioneer Vic Finkelstein at the Open University advocated the social model of disability, whereby disabled people control their own lives, challenging non-disabled society.
- Education (Handicapped Children) Act made education universal.

1971

- The University of Notre Dame founds The National Center for Law and the Handicapped as the first legal rights advocacy group in the United States for people with disabilities.
- In *Wyatt v. Stickney*, the Middle District of Alabama U.S. District court mandates that people in institutions and residential facilities have a constitutional right “to receive such individual treatment as [would] give them a realistic opportunity to be cured or to improve his or her mental condition.” This is the first law that requires mentally disabled people receive education.

1973

- Parents and professional caregivers of people with Down syndrome form the National Down Syndrome Congress devoted to increasing the level of care and the possibilities for people with the condition.
- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is passed. Sections 501, 503 and 504 prohibit discrimination in federal programs and services and all other programs or services receiving federal funds. Key language in the Rehabilitation Act, found in Section 504, states, “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

1967

- Cardiff’s Ely Hospital was embroiled in a national scandal after a *News of the World* story uncovered “endemic maltreatment” of its patients.
- The report and investigation unearthed countless acts of cruelty, verbal abuse, and beatings of patients, along with an indifference to complaints and lack of medical care. Many patients were forced to spend their entire lives as a patient without privacy, dignity, or freedom.
- In England, Scotland, and Wales, the Abortion Act 1967 made abortion legal as long as specific criteria are met. It is possible to have an abortion up to 23 weeks and 6 days of pregnancy (gestation). It allows for a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

1972

- The Mongoloid Development Council changes its name to the National Association for Down Syndrome (NADS).
- Ed Roberts establishes The Berkeley Center for Independent Living, with help from the Rehabilitation Administration. This becomes the first independent living center for disabled people.
- The U.S. District Court rules in *Mills v. Board of Education* that the District of Columbia cannot exclude disabled children from the public schools.
- *PARC v. Pennsylvania* overturns state laws that prohibit disabled children from entering public schools.
- The Social Security act is amended to create the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. This provides funds to support adult disabled people to help relieve parents of some of the costs of supporting a disabled person.
- Ultrasound prenatal diagnosis began with a Lancet paper by Stuart Campbell and his group who reported the diagnosis of anencephaly at 17 weeks which resulted in elective termination of pregnancy

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1975

Campbell systematically examined the fetal spine in women with raised serum AFP and reported the diagnosis of spina bifida

1980

'*People with Mental Handicap*' becomes the preferred term.

1983

The Mental Health Act reduces the length of compulsory orders, narrows definitions of mental impairment, and requires consent to treatment three months after admission

1984

- In *Bowen v. American Hospital Association*, the "Baby Doe" case is presented to the Supreme Court. This case results in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Amendments. This case also brought to light many other similar instances.
- In response to the termination of hundreds of thousands of people from Social Security Disability income, the Social Security Disability Reform Act is created. The law requires the terminated individuals continue to receive benefits until the end of their appeals.

1985

'*People with learning difficulties*' adopted by self advocacy groups

1986

- The Disabled Persons Act strengthens the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and requires local authorities to meet the various needs of disabled people.
- The Employment Opportunities for Disabled Americans Act is created, providing disabled people on Social Security Income and Insurance to continue to remain on Social Security Income and Insurance even if they gain employment.
- The first closure of a large long-stay institution for people with learning difficulties - Starcross, Exeter.

1979

National Down Syndrome Society is created and gains official nonprofit status in the areas of education, research, and advocacy through the strong efforts of Betsey Goodwin and Arden Moulton.

1981

- 1981 Education Act decrees that children should be educated in mainstream schools or classes wherever possible.
- The Disabled People's International group was formed with the slogan of "*Nothing About Us Without Us*". The British Council of Organisations of Disabled People was set up, the first national coalition of organisations controlled by people with disabilities to campaign for equality and human/ civil rights.
- The *Care in the Community* Green Paper signalled the end of the asylum. Over the following two decades, tens of thousands of people moved back to the community from the hospitals. A new era of residential and group homes, day-care facilities and independent living within mainstream communities began.
- The parents of "Baby Doe" in Bloomington, Indiana are advised by their doctors to decline surgery to unblock their newborn's esophagus because the baby has Down syndrome. Although disability rights activists try to intervene, "Baby Doe" starves to death before legal action is taken.
- The Reagan Administration removes benefits for hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities, prompting several disabled people to commit suicide. Disability rights activists fight this.
- Three residents of Calderstones Hospital, Lancashire (for people with learning difficulties), successfully campaign for the right to vote in General Elections.

1988

Down syndrome screening becomes feasible when a seminal paper on the subject is published (Maternal serum screening for Down's Syndrome in early pregnancy)

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1989

Caring for People White Paper set out principles for shift to community care in NHS and Community Care Act.

1993

A legal case of four men convicted of sexual assault and conspiracy for raping a 17-year old mentally disabled woman in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, highlights the widespread sexual abuse of people with developmental disabilities.

1995

- Disability Discrimination Act is passed, making it illegal to discriminate against people with disabilities in all civil acts. All service providers now must enable access to people with disabilities.
- *Helen L. v. DiDario* rules that continued institutionalisation of a person when it was not medically necessary when home-care is an option is a violation of that person's constitutional rights.
- Sandra Jensen, a member of People First, is denied a heart-lung transplant by the Stanford University School of Medicine because she has Down syndrome. After pressure from disability rights activists, administrators reverse their decision.

1998

72% of UK health authorities offered serum screening for all women, 10% offered age restricted serum screening, and only 8% restricted screening to age alone for Down Syndrome.

1999

The National Service Framework for Mental Health in 1999 sets minimum standards and good practice guidelines. But it has shortcomings in the involvement of mental health system survivors and service users.

2000

The Representation of the People Act allows patients in mental hospitals, other than those guilty of a criminal offence, to vote.

1990

- *National Health Service and Community Care Act* enters into effect.
- *The Americans with Disabilities Act* is signed by George H.W. Bush, providing comprehensive civil rights protection for people with disabilities. It mandates that local, state and federal governments and programs be accessible, that businesses make "reasonable accommodations" for disabled workers and that public accommodations such as restaurants and stores make "reasonable modifications" to ensure access.
- The Education for All Handicapped Children act is renamed and amended to become the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Department of Health official term: 'people with learning disabilities'.
- The first routine NHS Down syndrome screening programme using biochemical markers began in Newport and Cardiff. This was initially run as a one year prospective trial, which demonstrated that screening was acceptable to both doctors and the local population

1996

- Bowing to pressure from the National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL) and the Independent Living Movement, the government makes direct payments for social care legal in The Community Care (Direct Payments) Act. Direct payments lay the foundations for self-directed support, upon which initiatives such as personal budgets are now building.
- The NCIL was co-founded by Baroness Jane Campbell DBE of Surbiton, an active leader for the independent living campaign.
- Sandra Jensen becomes the first person with Down syndrome to receive a heart-lung transplant.
- New legislation removes more than 150,000 children with disabilities from Social Security Income, along with people with alcohol and drug addictions in the US.

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2004

The legal requirement to make reasonable adjustments to make buildings accessible comes into effect.

2005

- The Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Act extends protection to land, transport, small employers and private clubs, extends the definition of disability and introduces a duty for public bodies to promote disabled people's equality and 'involve' them in the design of services and policies.
- Mental Capacity Act: People with learning disabilities have the right to make their own decisions if they have the capacity to do so.
- The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit publishes its report, *Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People*, setting out recommendations for achieving equality for disabled people by 2025. This report marks the first official recognition of the social model of disability.
- Rosemary Kennedy, the oldest sister of the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy, who had an intellectual disability, dies at the age of 86. She was the inspiration behind Kennedy's advocacy for people with disabilities and was the reason her sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver created the Special Olympics in 1968.

2008

- Amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are signed into law in order to clarify and reiterate who is covered by the law's civil rights protections. The "ADA Amendments Act of 2008" revises the definition of "disability" to more broadly encompass impairments that substantially limit major life activity.
- Department of Health's report *Healthcare for All: The Independent Inquiry into Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities*. Emphasises need for urgent change to improve grossly inadequate NHS healthcare.

2001

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (SENDA): removed two of three caveats for mainstream education; made educational discrimination unlawful.
- The Commonwealth of Virginia House of Delegates officially expresses regret for the harm its eugenics laws caused between 1924 and 1979.
- White Paper *Valuing People*. Revised Code of Practice (DfES); emphasis on consultation with parents. Principles of rights, independence, choice and inclusion.

2006

The Disability Equality Duty for public sector bodies comes into effect.

2007

- UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities: UK a signatory to this Convention which commits states to uphold human rights for disabled people.
- The Government's Putting People First strategy proposes that all users of social care should have access to a personal budget to enable them to exercise choice and control over their support.
- American Association of Mental Retardation changes their name to American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This organisation is best known for officially defining the condition of differently-abled and its success in abolishing the death penalty for those who are differently-abled in the United States.

2010

- The Equality Act is passed by Parliament days before the general election. It outlaws direct or indirect discrimination and harassment in employment, vocational education and the provision of goods and services, for a total of nine protected characteristics including disability. It also outlaws discrimination because of association with a disabled person or because of the perception that someone is disabled.
- President Barack Obama signs Rosa's Law (s.2781) requiring the removal of the words "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" from federal laws.

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2011

- Hardest Hit campaign was organised by the Disability Benefits Consortium and the UK Disabled People's Council, lobbying the government about the impact of welfare cuts. Around 8,000 people with disabilities attended the march on Parliament in May.
- The Welfare Reform Bill proposes the replacement of the Disability Living Allowance with Personal Independence Payments.
- Winterbourne View Hospital scandal: BBC Panorama programme in May revealed widespread abuse by staff of people with learning disabilities.
- Jimmy Savile scandal breaks.

2017

The United Nations Council on the Rights of Disabled People committee published a report on the UK government's violations against people with disabilities in the UNCRPD. The report criticised the government for failing to successfully implement policies protecting the welfare rights of people with disabilities.

2012

- The Paralympic Games was held in London and marked a watershed moment on mainstream TV coverage of athletes with disabilities.
- Mencap publishes Death by Indifference report exposing the fatal consequences of inequalities in NHS healthcare for people with learning difficulties.
- Responsible Reform, also known as the Spartacus Report, is published. The report claims the government's consultation of changes to Disability Living Allowance fails to meet its own codes of practice; and that its report presents a highly misleading view of the responses it received.

2022

The Down Syndrome Act became law with the aim improve access to services and to improve the quality of life for people with Down syndrome. It aims to ensure that health, social care, education and other local authority services such as housing take account of the specific needs of people with Down syndrome when commissioning or providing services.



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SPOTLIGHT ON MODERN ADVANCES AND HISTORICAL DEVICES

600 BCE

The earliest record of wheeled furniture is an inscription on a stone slate in China and a child's bed depicted in a frieze on a Greek vase.

1100's

Animal horns are adopted as a hearing device.

1300's

- Spectacles are invented in Italy.
- The Venetian Republic founds the first publicly-funded health service in Europe, and requires licensed doctors to attend an annual course in anatomy, attend monthly meetings and exchange notes on new cases and treatments.
- A 'madhouse' is constructed as part of the Georghospital in Elbing, Germany.

1500's

Dutch surgeon Pieter Verduyn introduces the first non-locking, below-the-knee prosthesis - very similar to those in use today.

1760's

In Germany, France, Italy and England, the first schools for Deaf people are set up. In Paris, Phillippe Pinel unshackles people with mental illnesses.

525 CE

Images of wheeled chairs made specifically to carry people begin to appear in Chinese art.

1200's

- The Belgian village of Gheel supports people with mental illness in family care settings, and provides vocational opportunities.
- King Louis IX of France founds the world's first institution for blind people (the Quinze-Vingts hospice) in Paris.
- Asylums for people with mental illness are founded in Damascus and Aleppo.

1400's

- Gotz von Berlichingen, a German knight, creates prosthetic iron hands with moveable joints for himself, after losing an arm in battle.
- Spain has been described as the cradle of humane psychiatry because of the treatment at asylums such as Valencia, Sargossa, Seville, Valladolid, Palma Mallorca, Toledo (the Hospital de Innocents) and Granada. Valencia, opened at the beginning of the century, is said to have removed chains and used games, occupation, entertainment, diet and hygiene as early as 1409.



SPOTLIGHT ON MODERN ADVANCES AND HISTORICAL DEVICES

1800's

- Gotz von Berlichingen, a German knight, creates prosthetic iron hands with moveable joints for himself, after losing an arm in battle.
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1818

Manchester Eye Hospital opens, for 'curing diseases of the eye.'

1822

The American School for the Deaf adds vocational training to the curriculum.

1869

Swiss surgeon Jacques Louis Reverdin became the first doctor to transplant skin from one individual to another. This was the start of skin grafts.

1815

After his leg is shattered by cannon fire at the Battle of Waterloo, the Marquess of Anglesey begins using an artificial above-the-knee leg, with hinged knee, ankle and raising toes, developed by James Potts. The prosthetic limb becomes known as the 'Anglesey Leg'.

1816

A mental asylum at Lancaster Moor opens, eventually holding up to 2,400 patients in very overcrowded conditions

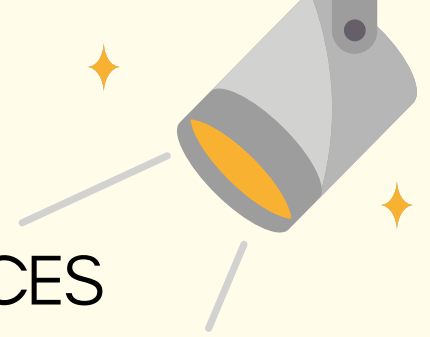
1817

Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons, the first permanent school for Deaf people in America, opens in Hartford on April 15.

1824

Braille is invented by Louis Braille.





SPOTLIGHT ON MODERN ADVANCES AND HISTORICAL DEVICES

1870

- The Royal Albert Asylum in Lancaster admits its first patients. It is one of only four regional institutions in England set up to care for and educate children with learning disabilities.
- At this time legislation (such as the 1845 Lunacy Act) is unclear about the distinctions between learning disability and mental illness.

1933

Harry Jennings and his disabled friend Herbert Everest, both mechanical engineers, invent a lightweight, steel, collapsible wheelchair.

1939

- During World War Two, the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead develops as a specialist burns unit. It becomes worldfamous for the pioneering treatment of Royal Air Force and other Allied aircrew who need reconstructive plastic surgery. The Hospital remains at the forefront of specialist burns treatment today.
- Joseph Friedman founded the Flex-Straw Company after watching his daughter Judith fuss over a milkshake. He created a straw that could bend around its grooves to reach a child's face over the edge of a glass.
- By the 1940s, he was manufacturing flex-straws with his own custom-built machines. His first sale didn't go to a restaurant, but rather to a hospital, where glass tubes still ruled. Nurses realised that bendy straws could help bed-ridden patients drink while lying down. Solving the "Judith problem" had created a multi-million dollar business.

1902

The first practical, commercially available electronic hearing aid is made by Miller Reese Hutchinson.

1905

The first successful corneal transplant takes place in Austria.

1920

A hearing aid using a vacuum tube, 'Vactophone,' is invented in the USA by Hanson, produced by Western Electric and distributed by Globe Phone.

1937

Italian neurologist Ugo Cerletti develops Electro Convulsive Treatment (ECT), convinced that induced convulsions were useful for the treatment of schizophrenia.



SPOTLIGHT ON MODERN ADVANCES AND HISTORICAL DEVICES

1946

The Invacar company is founded, going on to win a government contract to supply transport for physically impaired people throughout the 1950s and 1960s. With its distinctive pale blue colour, the Invacar was a common sight and went through about 50 versions. Driving the vehicle becomes illegal on UK roads in 2003 as it does not meet new safety standards.

1954

Dental hygiene is important for everyone, but people with limited motor skills really struggled to keep their teeth clean. In 1954, the Broxodent electric toothbrush was created to help people with limited strength, mobility and control do a better job of brushing.

1962

The first full hip replacement is carried out by Professor John Charnley at Wrightington Hospital near Wigan.

1972

The first CT (computerised tomography) scanner is used publicly.

1944

The National Spinal Injuries Centre is set up by neurologist Ludwig Guttmann at Stoke Mandeville Hospital to treat servicemen and women who sustain spinal cord injuries in World War Two.

1947

Bell Labs invent the transistor, which is quickly adopted for hearing aids.

1950

- The drug chlorpromazine is produced to treat schizophrenia, mania and others. As one of the major innovations in psychiatry, enabling far more people to be discharged after relatively short stays on psychiatric wards.
- The first polio vaccine is developed. Between 1947 and 1958 around 50,000 people in Britain contract polio.

1965

Research into the use of portable oxygen delivery systems are carried out in England and the USA. Such devices are crucial to enable greater independence.



SPOTLIGHT ON MODERN ADVANCES AND HISTORICAL DEVICES

1990

- The iBOT powered wheelchair developed by Dean Kamen uses gyroscopic technology to allow the user to mount stairs and curbs and rise to a standing height.
- Inventor Sam Farber saw his wife, who had arthritis, struggle to use a potato peeler and founded the OXO brand and its Good Grips line, as a result. Each kitchen tool featured a wide oval-shaped handle that was easy to control even if you had little strength in your hands.

1980

The first commercial magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner is produced. It is far more effective than earlier equipment for providing information about soft tissue, including the brain. MRI is particularly useful for finding tumours, as well as identifying conditions such as multiple sclerosis and the extent of a stroke.

2008

In the USA, experiments with retinal transplants improve vision in people with failing sight.



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