



**Social Care Funding:
MPs' perceptions
of the size of the
learning disability
sector.**

YouGov poll, commissioned by Hft, June 2019

Introduction

There are approximately 1.5 million people in the UK that have a learning disability. According to the most recent data, it was that that in 2015 1,087,100 people in England have a learning disability, which includes 930,400 adults aged 18+ (Source: “People with learning disabilities in England 2015” Public Health England, November 2016).

Social Care support for adults with learning disabilities accounts for approximately one-third of adult social care expenditure in England (Source: “Social Care At A Glance”, National Audit Office, July 2018). However, Hft does not believe that MPs fully understand the size and scale of the sector, or the challenges we face.

In order to test this theory, Hft commissioned YouGov to conduct a poll of MPs. Between 13th May – 2nd June 2019, YouGov asked MPs what percentage of the total adult social care spend in England was allocated to working age adults with learning disabilities. The sample size was weighted to be representative of the political make-up of Parliament. In total, 102 MPs responded to the survey which comprised of 49 Conservative MPs, 39 Labour MPs and 14 MPs from other parties such as the Scottish National Party, Liberal Democrats, etc.

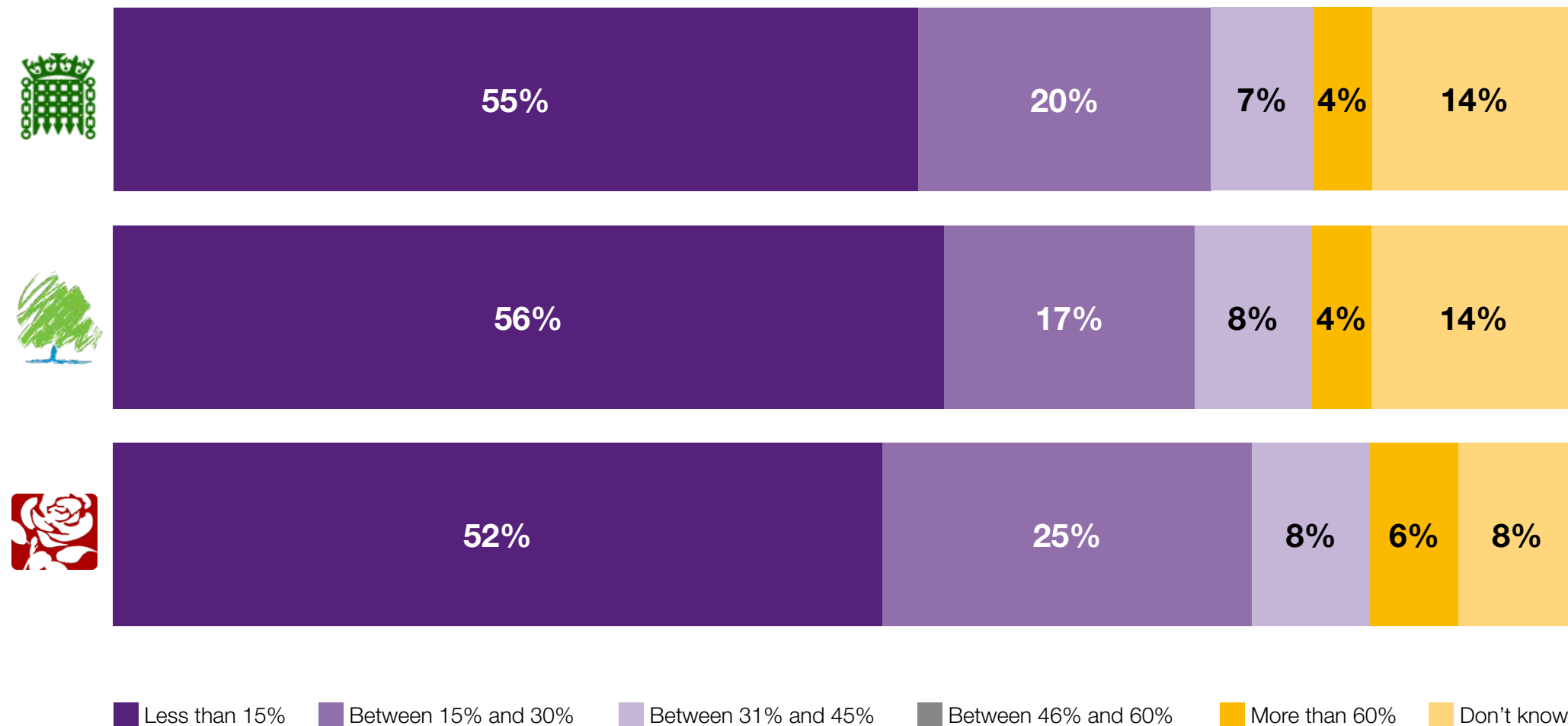
Executive Summary

- **Overall, only 7% of MPs were correctly able to identify that learning disabilities accounts for one third of adult social care**
- **The majority of Conservative MPs (56%) believed that adult social care accounted for “Less than 15%” of total expenditure**
- **A quarter (25%) of all Labour MPs believed it to be between 15-30%. However, the majority still incorrectly guessed it was a much smaller percentage of total social care spend**

Adult social care spend on learning disabilities

“What percentage of the total adult social care spend in England do you believe is allocated to supporting adults with learning disabilities?”

Base: All MPs (102); 39 Conservative, 50 Labour





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5/6 Brook Office Park, Folly Brook Road, Emersons Green, Bristol BS16 7FL

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