



**Knowledge Exchange Network  
for the Sight Loss Sector**



# **Putting Knowledge Transfer into Practice: Increasing the impact of research and information relating to sight loss**

**Catherine Dennison, Fay Sadro,  
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## **Knowledge Exchange Network for the Sight Loss Sector**

- 2 million people living with sight loss
- Cuts especially hitting people with SL
- Need for an evidence base to:
  - resist cuts
  - influence commissioning
  - inform service delivery
- Limited time/ skills in workforce
- But, the big SL orgs funding research



## **Knowledge Exchange Network for the Sight Loss Sector**

### **ESRC Knowledge Exchange Grant**

1. 8 Regional workshops for local profs
2. Five day course for national comms, policy & research profs
3. RNIB online Knowledge Hub
4. Networking activities

## Social isolation a major problem for the visually impaired, says Dorset Blind Association

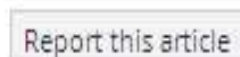
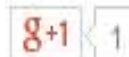
By [WG\\_MGoodchild](#) | Posted: February 02, 2014

### Comments (0)

As people grow older social networks break down as friends and relatives pass away. The impact is even more acute for older people who are visually impaired.

In Dorset, a county which has a tradition of attracting people – including retirees – from across the country, the position is particularly stark.

According to statistics provided by Dorset Blind Association 80% of the 5,600 people registered as blind or partially sighted in the





## **Knowledge Exchange Network for the Sight Loss Sector**

### **Learning from regional workshops**

- Advertising through prof's own networks, personal contacts.
- Community venues
- Coherent structure
- Plan, test & adapt
- Interaction & demonstration
- Accessible presentations



## **Knowledge Exchange Network for the Sight Loss Sector**

- 95% rated workshops 'Good' or 'Excellent'
- 80% agreed workshop had direct application to their job
- 70% have gone on to use at least one learning point or tool
- 79% agree tools and learning have had a major impact on work
- Key areas of impact: Education, Advocacy, Informing and evidencing work
- Practical application:
  - Written and verbal communication
  - Meaningful reflection on service delivery
  - Understanding how to access and use good quality research
- Future commitment to accessible reporting and dissemination



## **Knowledge Exchange Network for the Sight Loss Sector**

“I’ve realised it’s important to gather evidence of your intervention as you go along, build your aims into the service design at the beginning – so I’ve redesigned evaluation forms to reflect this and we’ve designed a beneficiary survey to do at the beginning and the end of the programme. This evidence will feed into an outcomes report...”

Local society



## **Knowledge Exchange Network for the Sight Loss Sector**

“making it seem possible”

Local society



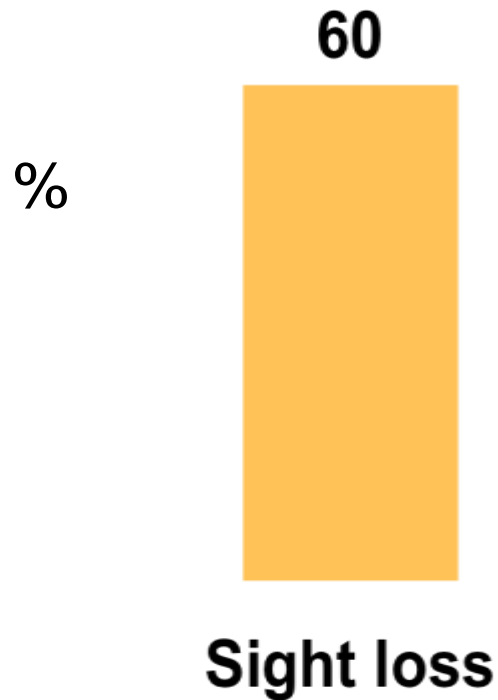


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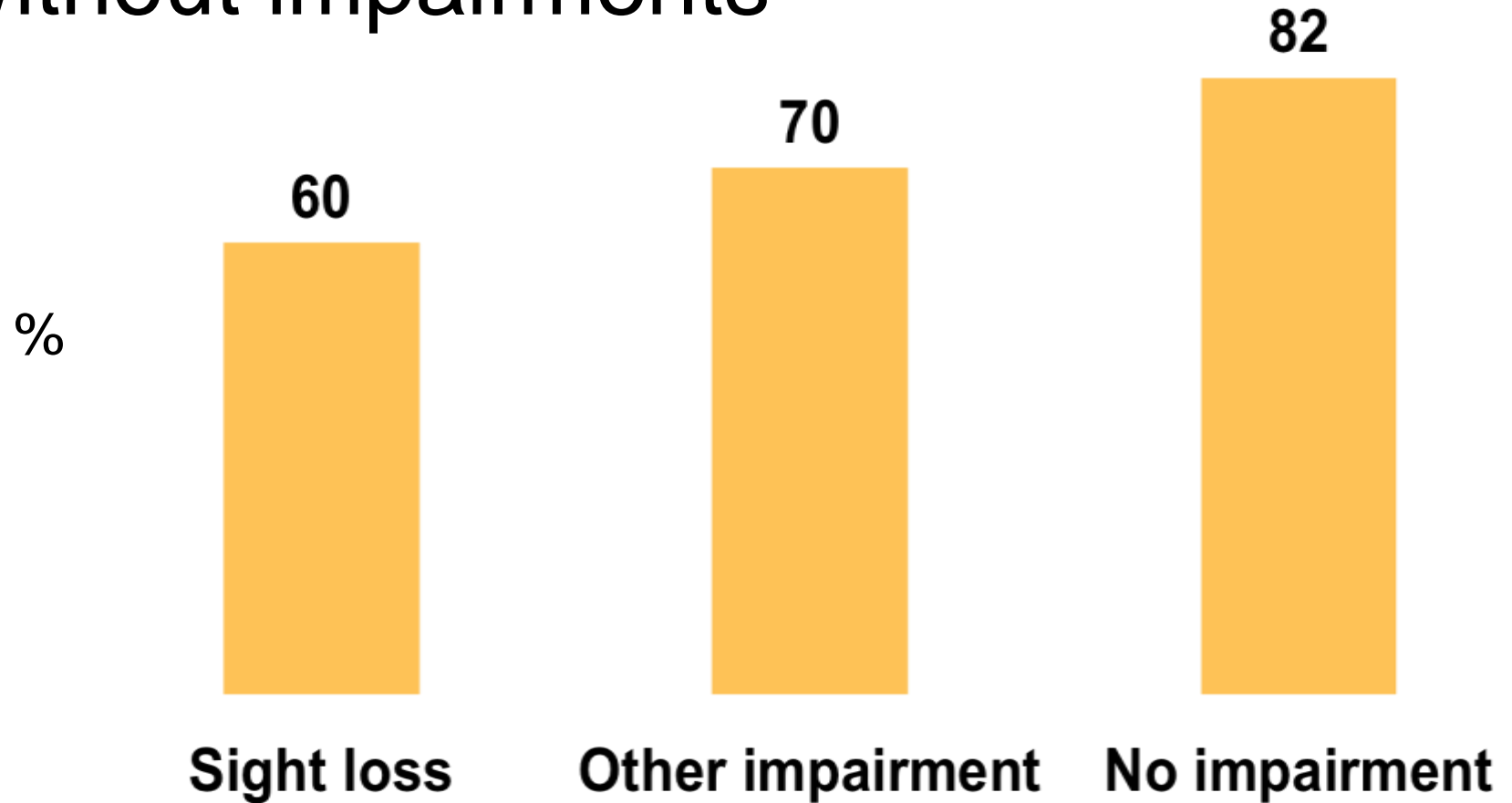
**Two issues...**

**Organisations  
represent groups**

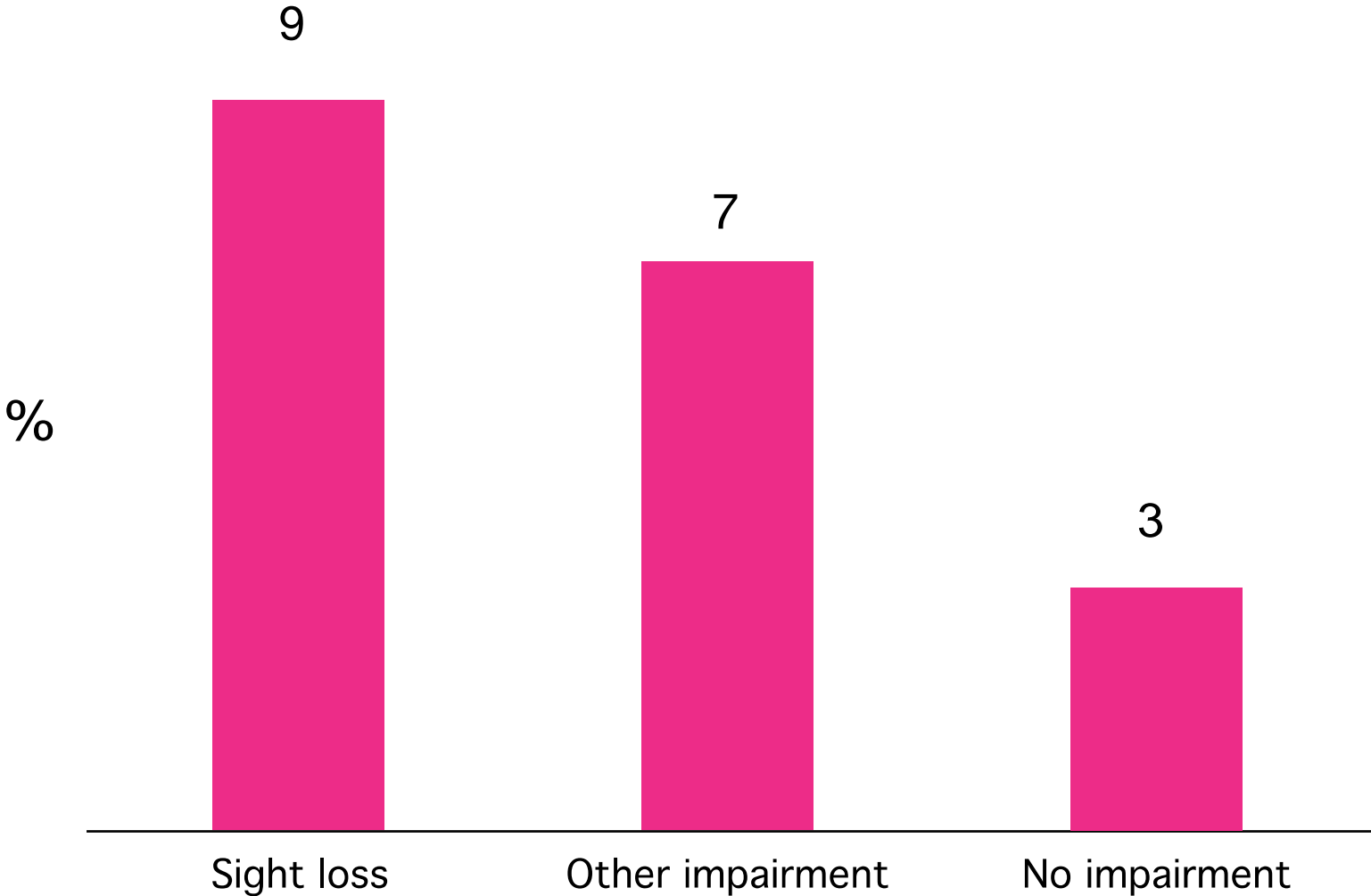
# 60% of people with sight loss report 'high life satisfaction'



People with sight loss **less likely** to have high life satisfaction than those without impairments

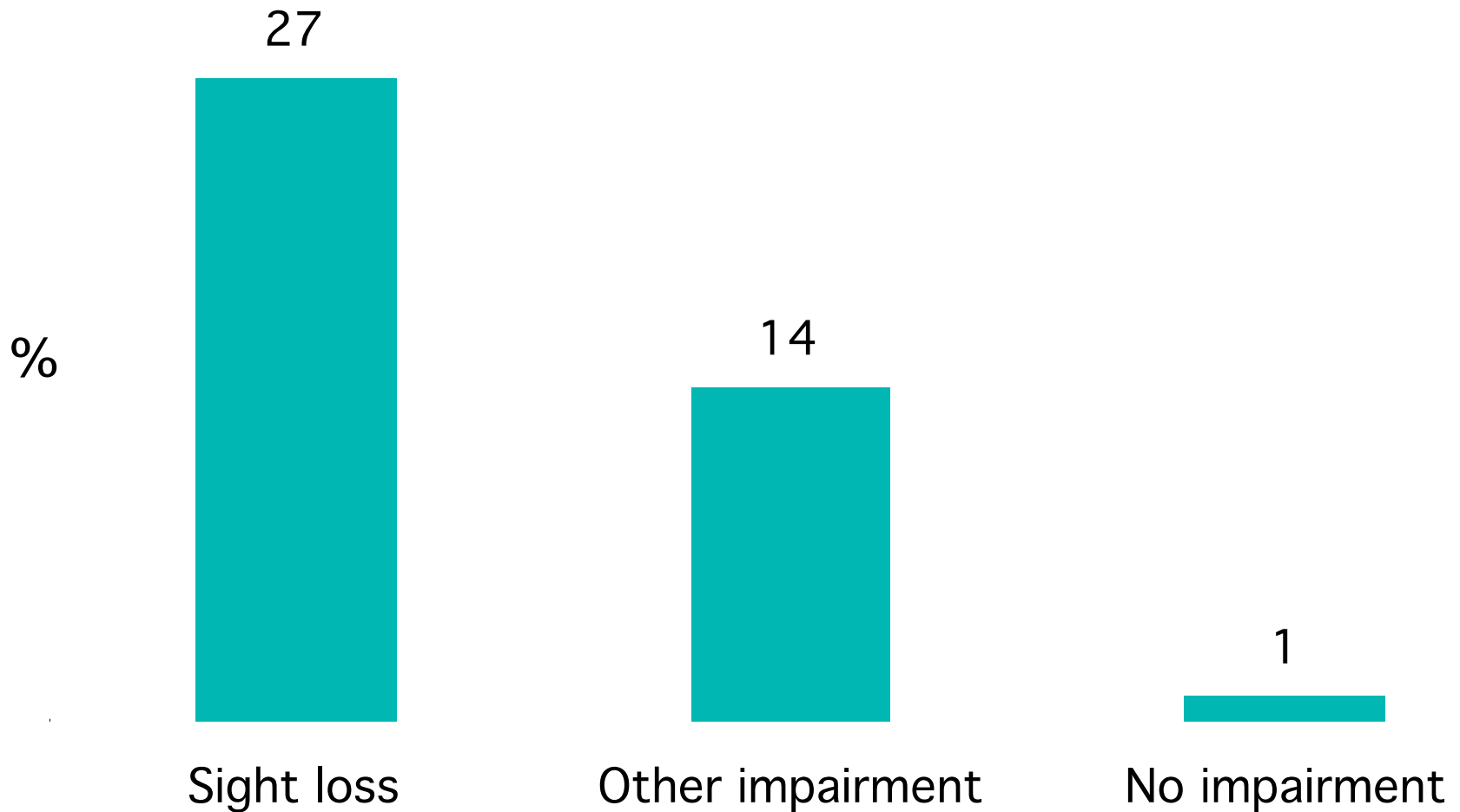


# A lot of difficulty accessing health services



Age and sex standardised

# Needs a lot of help to shop for everyday necessities



Age and sex standardised

**A puzzle.**

- **One of the largest face-to face longitudinal surveys in the world**
- General population
- Covers crime, housing, services, social contact, employment, education, leisure, travel...
- Participation and impairments



# Life Opportunities Survey

**Life Opportunities**





# Knowledge Exchange scheme

- Local
- Sustainable

**‘genuine commitment from  
project partner organisations.’**

**Knowledge exch**



# **Impact Acceleration Accounts**



‘...enable Research Organisations [to run] knowledge exchange activities  
**in ways that best suit their  
institutional strategies and  
opportunities.**’





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**Thank you**

**Catherine Dennison, Fay Sadro,  
Sally McManus**



## **Knowledge Exchange Network for the Sight Loss Sector**

### **Knowledge Hub & future networking**

- [www.rnib.org.uk/knowledge-and-research-hub](http://www.rnib.org.uk/knowledge-and-research-hub)
- Email alerts to 7,000 people
- LinkedIn group
- Face to face events
- Support for measuring outcomes