

NCC-031946-18 BSL-Budgets/expenditure -deaf or hard of hearing

Dear Requester,

Further to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act,

Firstly please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding. We have made extensive enquiries to ensure we can provide a comprehensive response and this has caused a delay.

1. How many children (0-18) in your Local Authority are deaf or hard of hearing?

326 children

2. What percentage of overall children (0-18) in your LA are deaf or hard of hearing?

0.18% - however this calculation is based on the numbers of children and young people who are on the Sensory Team's caseload, there may be other children with a lower level of hearing loss, who are not known to the team e.g. there have been clinic referrals for children and young people who are attending independent schools, who the Sensory Team are not funded to support.

Regarding budgets for Special Educational Needs (and Disabilities):

- How much has been spent on provision of British Sign Language tuition, in the form of lessons for parents, lessons for children, funding for schools to deliver lessons, or tutoring for children or families with deafness? Can you please provide me with the last 3 years of budgeted and actual figures?

The Teaching Assistants within the Sensory Team provide tuition to parents in the home and also to children and schools. We do not hold historic data on the amount of BSL provision that has been delivered. Based on current timetabling arrangements it is estimated that 2.5 days of TA time is dedicated to BSL per week, which is the equivalent of approximately £14,000 per annum. This figure will vary according to family and pupil need, but the Sensory Team does have the capacity to offer BSL support to parents and families, who require it.

- Does the LA employ an individual to teach/tutor BSL to families of deaf children? Has this changed over the last three years?

The service does not employ a single person to offer this support, but 2.5 full time equivalent Teaching Assistants within the Sensory Team have skills in BSL. This arrangement has been in place for more than 3 years.

- Do any of the LA's teachers of the deaf / Specialist Teachers teach/tutor BSL to children or families? Has this changed over the last three years?

All of the Teachers of the Deaf within the Sensory Team have BSL qualifications, however it is generally the Teaching Assistants who deliver the BSL support. This arrangement has been in place for more than 3 years.

Regarding Education, Health and Care Plans:

- How many children have British Sign Language mentioned as a special educational need in their Education, Health and Care Plan? Has this changed over the last three years?

There are 20 children in total.

- Of these, how many children have British Sign Language tuition (for them or for their parents/carers/family) named in the provision section of the plan? Has this changed over the last three years?
- How are these provisions fulfilled?
- Are any of these provisions made through personal budgets?

For the remaining 3 questions we are unable to provide a response as the information would be exempt under s12 of the Freedom of Information Act due to the length of time it would take the authority to provide:

In addition to this we may have others whose primary need is recorded as ASC who may also have a hearing impairment and we have no way of identifying this without looking through all EHCP's and this is an enormous task when we have 2600 EHCP with a high % having ASC.

In addition to this (funding devolved to schools) we do not manage how the schools use their funding to support hearing impairment. Some may have BSL tutors other may not. To get this information we would have to identify each school and go to them directly. Schools are now closed, and we would refer you to them in this instance.

We trust this resolves your enquiry, however should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

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You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottscc.gov.uk.

Kind Regards

Alison Fletcher

Complaints, Information & Mediation Officer

Chief Executive's Department