

Identifying the population of deaf looked after children and young people, and deaf care leavers

Summary of request

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Please get in touch if you wish to discuss or clarify any of the information being sought. The information supplied will be used for an undergraduate dissertation and also shared with the National Deaf Children's Society.

Please note the following in completing the questionnaire:

- By 'looked after' we are following the definition within the [s20, s31 Children Act 1989](#) This includes all children subject to care orders (s31) and those placed with agreement by parent(s) under s20. We also are including children subject to a series of planned short breaks (respite care) but only under s20.
- By 'care leaver' we mean those, 'eligible', 'relevant', 'former relevant' child and 'qualify care leaver' up to age 25 within [s23 and s24 of Children Act 1989](#), and [s3 Children and Social Work Act 2017](#)
- By 'deaf' we mean any level of hearing loss, and regardless of communication approach. Local authority data systems may record such children and young people as 'deaf', 'hearing impairment' and/or use the specific disability fields as recorded in the Characteristics of Child In Need tables within the [national data returns](#). Some deaf children may not have deafness/hearing impairments as their primary disability. We still wish to identify these children and young people within this request.
- To gather this information useful sources of evidence may be local disability registers Looked After children teams, Leaving Care teams, Disability Teams and sensory teams.

Section A: Looked After deaf children and young people

1. How many Looked after children and young people during the year were recorded as having a disability of deafness/hearing impairment in each of the last three years?

	Number of deaf children and young people
01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year 1)	1
01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year 2)	1
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)	1

2. Of the numbers shown in the table above, how many children and young people were known to communicate through British Sign Language?

	Number of deaf of children and young people
01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year 1)	1
01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year 2)	1
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)	1

3. What were the main types of placement for looked after deaf children? Children may be recorded more than once if they had multiple placements over the year.

Relevant Year period	Number of deaf children and young people by placement type					
	Any type of 'respite' short break placement	Foster placement to Adopt	Foster placement long term	Foster with a relative or friend	Children's home	Residential school or college
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)					1	

4. Are Looked after deaf children and young people offered deaf-specific support or provision? (for example, access to deaf role models, Deaf Advocacy, BSL translated materials, BSL interpreters, etc.)

Yes

No

If yes, please outline what that is:

BSL interpreters, Deaf Advocacy and support through the CAMHS deaf team.

5. Please provide contact details of the advocacy service you provide or commission:

Deaf Mentor Service

BDA Head Office | 3rd Floor | 356 Holloway Road | London N7 6PA | T: 020 7697 4140 | www.bda.org.uk

6. Is there any additional information you wish to add in relation to Section A?

NCC have in partnership with one of our Independent children's homes providers developed a bespoke deaf provision – specialist children's home.

We have commissioned a Deaf Consultant to support with this development:

Paul Redfern email: deafconsultancy@tutanota.com

Section B: Deaf Care leavers

7. How many care leavers were recorded as having a disability of deafness/hearing impairment in each of the last three year periods?)

	Number of deaf children and young people
01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year 1)	0
01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year 2)	0
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)	0

8. Of the numbers shown in the table above, how many children and young people were known to communicate through British Sign Language?

	Number of deaf children and young people
01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year 1)	0
01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year 2)	0
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)	0

9. What were the main destinations of deaf young people at the time they left care/ceased to be looked after?

	In education	In training or employment	Not in education, employment or training	Not known
No of deaf young care leavers who left care between 01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year one)				
No of deaf young care leavers who left care between 01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year two)				
No of deaf young care leavers who left care between 01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year three)				

Nottinghamshire County Council do not have any deaf care leavers.

10. Are deaf care leavers offered deaf-specific support or provision? (for example, access to deaf role models, Deaf Advocacy, BSL translated materials, BSL interpreters, etc.)

Nottinghamshire County Council do not have any deaf care leavers.

Yes

No

If yes, please outline what that is:

11. Is there any additional information you wish to add in relation to Section B?

Work is starting to ensure that the current LAC has support to transition at 18yrs and the learning/networks developed in children's services is shared fwd.

Section C: Foster carers

12. Do you provide any of the following training and support to foster carers of deaf children?

	Yes	No
Deaf awareness training		No but we would do if we needed to
Opportunities to learn British Sign Language		No but we would do if we needed to

13. Please specify below if any other training or support on deafness is provided to foster carers of deaf children and young people.

We have online learning accessible to foster carers and we would fund specific training if we needed to place a deaf child with carers.

14. Do you keep a record of foster carers who knowledge of experience of supporting deaf children and young people?

Yes

No

15. Do you keep a record of foster carers who can communicate through British Sign Language?

Yes

No

16. Have any steps been taken to recruit deaf adults to become foster carers or to promote fostering as an option among the Deaf community?

Yes

No

If yes, please outline below how this has been done.

17. Is there any additional information you wish to add in relation to Section C?

18. Please could you provide the contact details for the officer responsible for commissioning services for specialist fostering and looked after placements in your area.

Name	Jenny Whiston
Role	Service Manager, Commissioning and placements.
Email address	Jenny.whiston@nottsc.gov.uk

19. Please could you provide the contact details for the Lead Member for Children's Services within your local authority?

Details of the Council's democratic system, committee structure and members roles can be found via the following link:

https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/527/Default.aspx

Thank you. This is the end of the survey.