Consortium for Research in Deaf Education

2016 UK-wide summary

CRIDE report on 2016 survey on educational provision for deaf children

Introduction

In 2016, the Consortium for Research into Deaf Education (CRIDE) carried out its sixth annual survey on educational staffing and service provision for deaf children[1], covering the 2015/16 academic year[2]. Separate reports have already been published for England, Northern Ireland, and Wales which set out the results for each respective nation in detail. In light of similar work being undertaken by the Scottish Government, a survey was not sent out to services in Scotland.

This report provides a high level summary of the results for the three countries we surveyed. Data from the 2015 survey to services in Scotland is included in order to provide a UK-wide perspective. All reports can be downloaded from www.ndcs.org.uk/CRIDE or www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/resources/survey.

This report also includes data from a separate short survey done of special schools for deaf children across the UK on numbers of Teachers of the Deaf[3]. We received data from 17 special schools, out of 21 contacted.

Summary of key findings

- There are at least 48,075 deaf children across the UK. Taking into account where services did not respond to this question, CRIDE believes the actual figure is around 50,000.
- There are at least 1,611 teachers employed as Teachers of the Deaf in peripatetic services, resource provisions or special schools, of which (83%) are fully qualified Teachers of the Deaf.
- The number of qualified Teachers of the Deaf in peripatetic services or resource provisions across the UK has fallen by 5% in the last year. There remains a long-term decline of 13% over the past six years.
- There are at least 1,713.15 other specialist support staff working with deaf children across the UK, a reported 15% increase since last year.

[1] For the purpose of this survey, 'deaf children' were defined as all children and young people up to the age of 19 with sensori-neural and permanent conductive deafness, using the descriptors provided by the British Society of Audiology and BATOD. We used the word 'deaf' to include all levels of deafness, from mild to profound.
[2] Reports from previous years can be found on the BATOD website at www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/resources/survey or on the NDCS website at www.ndcs.org.uk/CRIDE.
[3] The main survey for services already asks about deaf children in special schools.

There was a 100% response rate across all three countries of the UK that were surveyed. CRIDE would like to take the opportunity to thank all services for responding to the survey, despite the considerable time constraints to which many services are subject.

Interpreting the results

Services and schools were asked to give figures for the position as of 31st January 2016.

In terms of the main survey, it is clear that many services still report difficulties in extracting data about deaf children in their area and there remain inconsistencies in how different questions are completed throughout the survey. The response rates to individual questions sometimes vary. **Therefore, the results should continue to be used with caution.** In 2016, after five years of conducting the survey and carrying out a substantial review, CRIDE made a number of significant changes to the questions in the main survey. Caution is also needed due to differences in response rates to individual questions and potential mistakes in data provision between surveys.

Data for services and resource provisions in Scotland is taken from the 2015 survey, which means that care is needed if making like-for-like comparisons across the UK.

Please note that all percentages have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

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PART 1: Deaf children in the UK

In 2016, services were asked to give details of deaf children living in the geographical area which they cover[4]. This was a change in wording which attempted to make the question clearer, but asked about the same group of children as the questions on children 'belonging' to services in previous surveys.

According to the surveys, the adjusted total number of deaf children aged 0 to 19 across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is at least **48,075**. This figure is an apparent decrease from 48,846 in 2015. It should be noted that in England, six services did not give figures for numbers of deaf children. Figures from previous years indicate that there are around 2,000 deaf children in these six areas. This would suggest that the actual number of deaf children across the UK is **around 50,000**.

Table 1: Number of deaf children living in the geographical area, by nation and region in 2016

Country Region	**Number of deaf children reported (2016)**	**Percentage as UK total (2016)**
England	41,261	86%
East England	4,349	8%
East Midlands	3,287	7%
London	7,285	13%
North East	2,335	5%
North West	5,238	12%
South East	5,880	11%
South West	3,164	7%
West Midlands	5,549	11%
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,174	10%
Northern Ireland	1,498	3%
Wales	2,374	5%
Scotland (2015 data)	*2,942*	*6%*
UK	48,075	100%

[4] The definition for this question was given as: "For the purpose of this survey we use the term 'children' to include children and young people up to the age of 19 years, 11 months. The answer should include: All children who have sensori-neural and permanent conductive deafness, at all levels from mild to profound, using BSA/BATOD descriptors. Children with temporary deafness should not be included in your response to this question. All deaf children, regardless of whether they receive support from the service. Local authorities are subject to a legal duty to collect this information. Children who attend education provision outside of your area but who normally live in your area."

Table 2: Number of deaf children living in the geographical area, by nation and region, over successive years

Country Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
England	34,927	37,414	37,588	40,614	41,284	41,261
East England	2,572	3,291	3,916	3,598	3,840	4,349
East Midlands	2,334	2,436	2,374	3,737	3,394	3,287
London	5,271	5,642	6,110	6,247	6,518	7,285
North East	1,949	2,056	2,016	2,110	2,201	2,335
North West	5,037	5,346	4,656	5,900	5,780	5,238
South East	5,624	5,750	5,351	5,859	5,614	5,880
South West	3,348	3,318	3,318	3,158	3,578	3,164
West Midlands	4,290	4,751	5,027	4,883	5,294	5,549
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,502	4,824	4,820	5,122	5,065	4,174
Northern Ireland	1,239	1,249	1,481	1,574	1,332	1,497
Scotland	2,526	-	2,842	3,057	2,942	-
Wales	2,775	2,743	2,904	2,880	3,288	2,374
UK	41,467	41,406	44,815	48,125	48,846	

Table 3: Minimum, maximum and average number of deaf children belonging in each service in 2016

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
England	70	1,466	327
Northern Ireland	197	390	299
Wales	52	349	158
Scotland (2015 data)	*8*	*307*	*100*

Number of deaf children on services' caseloads

Earlier, this report looked at the number of deaf children who were known to live in the geographical area covered by the services. CRIDE also asked about deaf children on services' caseloads.

By asking about children on caseload, CRIDE means children who receive some form of support at least once a year. Examples of support included direct teaching, visits to the family or school, liaison with the family, school, teachers, providing hearing aid checks, etc. Services were also able to include children supported by the service but who do not live in the same geographical area for that service.

The wording for this question regarding children supported by the service was changed in the 2016 survey. In previous years, it included only children with permanent deafness, whereas this year, in response to feedback from services, the question on caseloads included children with temporary deafness too.

Table 4: Number of deaf children on services' caseloads, by nation and region in 2016

Country Region	**Number of deaf children on services' caseloads (2016)**	**Percentage as UK total (2016)**
England	40,084	83%
East England	3,880	10%
East Midlands	2,780	7%
London	6,788	17%
North East	2,205	6%
North West	5,264	13%
South East	5,138	13%
South West	3,510	9%
West Midlands	5,532	14%
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,987	12%
Northern Ireland	1,625	3%
Wales	3,722	8%
*Scotland (2015 data)**	*2,618*	*6%*
UK	48,049	100%

***** It should be noted that in the 2015 surveys, services were asked not to include children with temporary hearing loss in response to the CRIDE question on caseloads. However, services were able to do this when asked about caseloads in the 2016 survey. As there was no survey in 2016 in Scotland, this means that the Scotland figure included here is unlikely to be directly comparable with figures from other nations.

PART 2: Teachers of the Deaf and other specialist staff

This section of the report incorporates data from the main survey and also from a separate short survey sent to special schools for deaf children.

In total, there are at least 1,338 fully qualified Teachers of the Deaf employed by services, resource provisions or special schools across the UK.

There are at least 1,611 teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf. 83% of these roles are occupied by a fully qualified Teacher of the Deaf. The remaining teachers are in training (13%) or are qualified teachers but with no immediate plans to begin training for the mandatory qualification (4%).

Table 5: Number of overall full time equivalent (FTE) Teachers of the Deaf in employment in peripatetic services, resource provisions and special schools in 2016

	England (peri/RPs)	**Northern Ireland (peri/RPs)**	***Scotland*** *(2015 data)* ***(peri/RPs)***	**Wales (peri/RPs)**	**Special schools (UK)**	**Total**
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	932.38 (88%)	32.6 (98%)	*129.5 (65%)*	65.45 (95%)	178.3 (71%)	1,338.23 (83%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	114.8 (11%)	0.8 (2%)	*49.1 (25%)*	3.8 (5%)	42 (17%)	210.5 (13%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	12.1 (1%)	0	*19.4 (10%)*	0	31.4 (12%)	62.9 (4%)
Total	1,059.28 (100%)	33.4 (100%)	*198 (100%)*	69.25 (100%)	251.7 (100%)	1,611.63 (100%)

It is interesting to note that the proportion of teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf but without the mandatory qualification and not in training is higher in special schools (12%) than the UK average for peripatetic services or resource provisions (3%). In total, there nearly as many unqualified Teachers of the Deaf not in training in special schools (31.4 FTE) as there are elsewhere (31.5 FTE).

At the time the survey was completed, there were 66.9 vacant posts (of which 5 were in special schools for deaf children).

If the vacant posts are added to the total number of teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf in employment, this would indicate there are at least 1,678.53 Teacher of the Deaf posts, of which 4% are vacant.

Excluding special schools, there are a total of 1,159 qualified Teachers of the Deaf working across the UK. Looking at changes over time, there has been a fall in the number of qualified Teachers of the Deaf in peripatetic services or in resource provisions in employment of 5% from 1,225.71 since 2015 and by 13% from 1,334.3 since 2011.

The following sections look in more detail at any differences between numbers and proportions of Teachers of the Deaf working in a peripatetic role and/or in resource provisions.

Table 6: Number of full time equivalent (FTE) peripatetic or visiting Teachers of the Deaf in employment in 2016

	England	**Northern Ireland**	***Scotland*** *(2015 data)*	**Wales**	**UK**
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	578.55 (91%)	28.6 (97%)	*74.2 (68%)*	35.45 (93%)	716.8 (89%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	49.9 (8%)	0.8 (3%)	*28 (26%)*	2.8 (7%)	81.5 (10%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	4.7 (1%)	0	*6.9 (6%)*	0	11.6 (1%)
Total	633.15 (100%)	29.4 (100%)	*109.1 (100%)*	38.25 (100%)	809.9 (100%)

Table 7: Number of full time equivalent (FTE) Teachers of the Deaf in employment in resource provisions in 2016

	England	**Northern Ireland**	***Scotland*** *(2015 data)*	**Wales**	**UK**
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	297.18 (82%)	4 (100%)	*55.3 (62%)*	27 (96%)	383.48 (79%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	59.9 (16%)	0	*21.1 (24%)*	1 (4%)	82 (17%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	7.4 (2%)	0	*12.5 (14%)*	0	19.9 (4%)
Total	364.48 (100%)	4 (100%)	*88.9 (100%)*	28 (100%)	485.38 (100%)

Table 8: Number of full time equivalent (FTE) Teachers of the Deaf in employment in 2016 working flexibly between the peripatetic service and resource provisions.

	England	**Northern Ireland**	**Scotland***	**Wales**	**UK**
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	56.65 (92%)	0	n/a	3 (100%)	59.65 (97%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	5 (8%)	0	n/a	0	2 (3%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	0 (0%)	0	n/a	0	0
Total	61.65 (100%)	0	n/a	3 (100%)	61.65 (100%)

* The previous question was introduced to the CRIDE survey in 2016. This means there is no previous data from Scotland on Teachers of the Deaf working flexibly.

Table 9: Proportional differences in level of qualification of peripatetic Teachers of the Deaf in 2016

	England	**Northern Ireland**	***Scotland*** *(2015 data)*	**Wales**	**UK**
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	91%	97%	*68%*	93%	89%
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	8%	3%	*26%*	7%	10%
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	1%	0%	*6%*	0%	1%

Table 10: Proportional differences in level of qualification of Teachers of the Deaf in resource provisions in 2016

	England	**Northern Ireland**	***Scotland*** *(2015 data)*	**Wales**	**UK**
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	82%	100%	*62%*	96%	79%
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	16%	0%	*24%*	4%	17%
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	2%	0%	*14%*	0%	4%

Table 11: Proportional differences in level of qualification of Teachers of the Deaf working flexibly across the peripatetic service and resource provisions in 2016

	England	**Northern Ireland**	**Scotland**	**Wales**	**UK**
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	92%	n/a	n/a	100%	96%
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	8%	n/a	n/a	0%	4%
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	0%	n/a	n/a	0%	0%

Survey responses indicate that there are no Teachers of the Deaf in Northern Ireland who work flexibly between the peripatetic service and resource provision. As earlier, we have no data from the Scotland 2015 survey to draw upon.

Table 12: Number of full time equivalent (FTE) specialist support staff overall, by role in 2016

	England	**Northern Ireland**	***Scotland*** *(2015 data)*	**Wales**	**All countries**
Teaching assistants/ Classroom support assistants etc	837.08 (55.4%)	5 (66%)	*54.6 (51%)*	75.3 (88%)	971.98 (57%)
Communication support workers/ Interpreters/ Communicators etc	415.13 (27.5%)	0	*21.4 (20%)*	7.8 (9%)	444.33 (26%)
Deaf instructors/Deaf role models/Sign language instructors etc	96.59 (6.4%)	0	*9.1 (8%)*	0	105.69 (6%)
Educational audiologists	36.45 (2.4%)	1 (13%)	*5.9 (5%)*	0	43.35 (3%)
Technicians et al.	40.8 (2.7%)	0	*0*	2 (2%)	42.8 (2%)
Speech and language therapists	46.55 (3.1%)	0	*6.1 (6%)*	0.2 (<1%)	52.85 (3%)
Family support workers/Liaison officers	27.75 (1.8%)	0	*0*	0	27.75 (2%)
Social workers/Social workers for deaf children	11.8 (0.8%)	0.6 (8%)	*1 (1%)*	0	13.4 (0%)
Other	0	1 (13%)	*10 (9%)*	0	11 (<1%)
Total	1,512.15 (100%)	7.6 (100%)	*108.1 (100%)*	85.3 (100%)	1,713.15 (100%)

It should be noted that we have only included figures for ‘Other’ where an FTE figure was given.

In all of the countries, teaching assistants are the most common type of other specialist staff but the proportion ranges from 51% of all other specialist support staff in Scotland to 88% in Northern Ireland.

The number of other specialist staff has increased from 1,496.1 or 15% over the previous year.

PART 3: Eligibility frameworks and funding arrangements

Table 13: Criteria/frameworks used to help determine the level of support for deaf children in 2016

	England	**Northern Ireland**	***Scotland*** *(2015 data)*	**Wales**	**UK**
NatSIP criteria/framework	107 (81%)	1 (20%)	*7 (24%)*	15 (100%)	130 (72%)
Criteria are mostly developed locally	18 (14%)	4 (80%)	*19 (66%)*	0	41 (23%)
Other	7 (5%)	0	*3 (10%)*	0	10 (5%)
Total number of services	132 (100%)	5 (100%)	*29 (100%)*	15 (100%)	181 (100%)

Table 14: Funding arrangements for peripatetic specialist support services for deaf children aged 5 to 16 in 2016

Funding is...	**England**	**Northern Ireland**	***Scotland*** *(2015 data)*	**Wales**	**UK**
held centrally by the LA or Education Authority (including funding held by the LA to purchase hearing support services from other LAs, or external agencies e.g. SENSE)	106 (80%)	5 (100%)	*20 (69%)*	3 (87%)	134 (78%)
delegated to a special or mainstream school with a resource provision that then provides outreach to other schools	8 (6%)	0	*6 (21%)*	0	14 (8%)
delegated in full to individual schools in the LA/EA who decide whether to purchase specialist support from the LA	1 (1%)	0	*0*	0	1 (1%)
delegated in part to individual schools in the LA/EA who decide whether to purchase specialist support from the LA/EA (i.e. “traded services” for non-statemented children)	1 (1%)	0	*0*	2 (13%)	3 (2%)
Other	16 (12%)		3 (10%)	0	19 (11%)
Total	132 (100%)	5 (100%)	29 (100%)	15 (100%)	171 (100%)

PART 4: Background and methodology

CRIDE comprises a range of organisations and individuals with a common interest in improving the educational outcomes achieved by deaf children through research. At the time the survey was sent out, representatives included: the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD), City, University of London, the Ear Foundation, the Ewing Foundation, the National Deaf Children's Society, the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NatSIP), Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, Mary Hare School, the specialist education services for deaf children in Kent, Norfolk and the Highlands, University of Edinburgh, University of Leeds and University College, London (UCL).

The surveys were designed and created by members of CRIDE. In 2016, after five years of conducting the survey and a substantial review, a number of significant changes were made to the main survey questions.

The main CRIDE survey alternates between a full and a shorter survey from year to year. In 2016, a short survey was issued.

Table 15: Response rate by nation to the main survey

Country	Number of responses	Percentage of all services in each nation
England	132	100%
Northern Ireland	5	100%
Wales	15	100%
Total	152	100%

In 2015, responses were received from 29 services in Scotland, covering 31 (out of 32) local authority areas, achieving a response rate of 97%.

A separate survey was also disseminated to special schools for deaf children. We received 17 responses from 21 requests.

Analysis of the results using Excel and drafting of this report was largely completed by the National Deaf Children's Society, with guidance and approval from members of CRIDE.

CRIDE would like to thank all services for taking the time to complete this survey and for their valuable comments and feedback, which will be used to inform the design of future surveys. The results from this survey will be used for research purposes, to influence government policy and to campaign to protect funding and services for deaf children.

If you have any feedback or questions on the results, please contact cride@ndcs.org.uk.