



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002593
Date 30 July 2018

Local Authority Education Provision for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment: 2018

Request:

Please find attached a Freedom of Information (FOI) questionnaire about vision impairment (VI) services, which we are issuing to every local authority in England.

Section 1: Organisation and funding of your local authority Education Vision Impairment (VI) Advisory service

1a. How is provision for children and young people with vision impairment funded? (Choose one only)

i.	Centrally funded by the LA for specialist support for all pupils with VI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii.	Partially delegated to individual schools who purchase specialist support from the LA under 'traded services' arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii.	Fully delegated to individual schools who purchase specialist support from the LA under 'traded services' arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv.	Other (please give details):	<input type="checkbox"/>

If any aspect of service is traded please answer Q1b below.

1b. Please provide details of traded services:

Service traded	Who the service is traded to	Total budget traded

Section 2: Structuring of services

Q2. In the past twelve months have any changes been made to the way that provision for children and young people with vision impairment is funded and/or organised? (Choose one only)

i.	Yes	
ii.	No	✓

Q2b. If 'yes', please give details of changes:

Q2c. Were these changes consulted on with parents and VI organisations? (Choose one answer)

i.	Yes, parents only	
ii.	Yes, VI organisations only	
iii.	Yes, both parents and VI organisations	
iv.	No, parents and VI organisations were not consulted	

Q2d. If 'no', or yes to only one group, what was the reason for this decision?

Q3. Please provide details of the overall VI service budget (including staff, equipment and training) for:

- i. 2017/18: £400,460
- ii. 2016/17: £491,420

Q4. What percentage of the High Needs Funding budget is spent on the overall VI service budget? [Approximately 1.6%](#)

Section 3: Number of children and young people (CYP) on the VI service caseload

Q5. Please provide the number of children and young people with vision impairment that the local authority has on their records for the following categories:

Ages	Total	Statement or EHCP	SEN Support	Not yet assessed/ categorised	Other
0 - 4:	27	2	3	22	0
5 - 16:	120	44	43	33	0
17 - 19:	9	5	3	1	0
20 - 25:	4	3	0	1	0

Q5b. If 'other', please explain: N/A

Q6. What is the 'criteria' or how is it determined which children and young people with vision impairment receive an EHCP? (Choose all that apply)

i.	They must meet a specified level of severity/visual acuity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii.	They must have additional SEND	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii.	They must be failing to make the expected level of progress	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv.	They are expected to attend a special school	<input type="checkbox"/>
v.	Other – please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7a. How many children or young people with vision impairment have had their support reduced in the last 12 months? 18

Q7b. How many of these children had the decision taken after reviewing their EHC plan? 9

Q7c. Please give reasons why support has been reduced:

The reasons are various including:

- Short period of input e.g. specific skills or assessment completed.
- Supported during transition into new school including training staff, CYP settled in new environment and school staff trained so require less input.
- Stable vision and in school with staff familiar and experienced with CYP with VI.
- Moved to a VI resource base or school with own VI provision.

Q8. What is the total number of children and young people who use (or in the case of EYFS children, are expected to use) braille as their sole or main literacy medium? 2

Section 4: VI service staffing

Q9. Please provide details of the structure of the team/staff supporting children and young people with vision impairment including job title, qualification and full time equivalent. This includes teachers employed directly by the VI service (peripatetic/advisory and school-based teachers and VI service manager NOT including teaching assistants):

Job Title	Qualification	Number of staff	Full time equivalent	Permanent / temporary contract
Team Leader	MQTV1		1	Permanent
Team Leader	MQTV1		1.1	Permanent

Q10. Please provide information regarding the case load of each QTVI:

	Full time equivalent	Number on active case load	Number on total case load	Average waiting time to be seen for initial assessment
QTVI 1	1.0	75		10 working days from receipt of parental consent
QTVI 2	0.6	42		As above
QTVI 3	0.5	43		As above
QTVI 4				As above
			Total 160	

Q11a. Please give the numbers of teaching assistants (TAs) in your LA who are providing support to pupils with vision impairment (this includes service and school-based staff):

Employment arrangements	Number of TAs
Employed and recruited directly by VI service – centrally based/peripatetic	1
Employed and recruited directly by VI service – school based	0
Employed and recruited directly by schools and supported by VI service	54
Employed and recruited directly by schools with no involvement from VI service	0
Other arrangement (please give details):	0

Q11b. What type of training is routinely provided to non-specialist education staff who are supporting a VI pupil(s) within your LA?

	Awareness raising	INSET provided by VI service	External, non-accredited training	External, accredited training	Other type of training (please give details)*
Mainstream teachers	x	x			
Special (non-VI) school teachers	x	x			
Early years/nursery staff	x	x			
TAs providing direct support to VI pupil(s), who are employed by the school	x	x			
TAs employed by the VI service	x	x	x	x	x

*Details of other types of training provided:

Training regarding the needs of VI pupils in specific settings is provided to all the above and takes the form of INSET provided by the VI service. The TA employed by the service also attends External non-accredited courses and also undertakes internal LA online training.

Section 5: Habilitation support

Q12a. Does the local authority offer Habilitation support for children and young people? By habilitation we mean support and training in orientation, mobility and independent living skills (choose one only):

i.	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii.	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii.	I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q12b. If 'No' please explain why, and what support is put in place to meet habilitation needs?

Q13. Who in your LA provides mobility and habilitation skills training to children and young people with VI?

		If yes, please give number as full time equivalent:
i.	Qualified habilitation officer(s) employed centrally by the VI service	
ii.	Qualified mobility/rehabilitation officer(s) employed centrally by the VI service	
iii.	Qualified habilitation officer(s) externally commissioned from another organisation	0.6
iv.	Qualified habilitation officer(s) bought in from another team within the LA (e.g. social care)	
v.	Qualified mobility/rehabilitation officer(s) bought in from another team within the LA (e.g. social care)	

Q13b. How many pupils are currently receiving mobility/habilitation training or waiting to be assessed?

- i. Number of pupils currently on active caseload: 33
- ii. Number of pupils waiting assessment: 3

Section 6: Redress

Q14a. How many complaints have been made to the local authority by parents of VI children over support provided for their child between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2018? 0

Q14b. How many of these have progressed to tribunal? One

Section 7: Registers

Q15. Who in the LA holds the vision impairment register for children and young people who are blind or partially sighted? (Choose one only):

a)	Social care sensory team	
b)	Social care children's team	✓
c)	Local society for blind people/sight loss society	
d)	Other (please give details)	