



Consortium for Research in Deaf Education

## 2013 UK-wide summary

### CRIDE report on 2013 survey on educational provision for deaf children

#### Introduction

In 2013, the Consortium for Research into Deaf Education (CRIDE) conducted a survey of specialist educational services for deaf children on educational staffing and service provision for deaf children throughout England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in the 2012/13 financial year. Separate reports have already been published for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Scotland which set out the results for each respective nation in detail. This report provides a high level summary of the results for the four countries as a whole. All reports can be downloaded from [www.ndcs.org.uk/CRIDE](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/CRIDE) or <http://www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/resources/survey>.

As set out in each of the individual reports, there was effectively a 100% response rate across all four countries of the UK. However, not all services were able to answer every question, and in some cases the quality of the responses received sometimes varied. As such, the results should be used with caution. However, to our knowledge, they are the best figures available and provide the most comprehensive overview of educational provision for deaf children and young people in the UK.

Please note that not all respondents gave complete figures in response to questions on the numbers of deaf children. Some services gave a “total” figure which differed from the sum of their broken-down figures. In most cases, this was because the service could not provide a complete breakdown. Where this has happened and as appropriate, we have used the higher figure, or any figures given in the notes or elsewhere in the response to avoid underestimating the number of deaf children and to ensure that our figures are as accurate as possible.

#### Findings

##### *Numbers of deaf children overall*

According to our survey, the adjusted total number of deaf children<sup>1</sup> aged 0 to 19 across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is at least **45,175**. This figure is an increase from 41,464 in 2011<sup>2</sup>. Improvements in reporting is likely to be form a significant part of the explanation for this increase from services – previous surveys have not always attracted a 100% response rate.

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<sup>1</sup> Deaf children was defined as those with sensorineural and permanent conductive deafness, using the descriptors provided by the British Society of Audiology and BATOD.

<sup>2</sup> In 2012, CRIDE did not survey services in Scotland. The UK-wide CRIDE figure (excluding Scotland) in that year was 41,406.

Table 1: Number of deaf children belonging, by nation and region in 2013, 2012 and 2011

| Country (Region)                | Number of deaf children reported (2013) | Percentage as UK total (2013) | Number of deaf children reported (2012)   | Percentage as UK total (2012) | Number of deaf children reported (2011) | Percentage as UK total (2011) |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| England:                        | 37,948                                  | 84%                           | 37,414                                    | 90%                           | 34,927                                  | 84%                           |
| <i>East England</i>             | 3,916                                   | 9%                            | 3,291                                     | 8%                            | 2,572                                   | 6%                            |
| <i>East Midlands</i>            | 2,374                                   | 5%                            | 2,436                                     | 6%                            | 2,334                                   | 6%                            |
| <i>London</i>                   | 6,110                                   | 14%                           | 5,642                                     | 14%                           | 5,271                                   | 13%                           |
| <i>North East</i>               | 2,016                                   | 4%                            | 2,056                                     | 5%                            | 1,949                                   | 5%                            |
| <i>North West</i>               | 4,656                                   | 10%                           | 5,346                                     | 13%                           | 5,037                                   | 12%                           |
| <i>South East</i>               | 5,351                                   | 12%                           | 5,750                                     | 14%                           | 5,624                                   | 14%                           |
| <i>South West</i>               | 3,318                                   | 7%                            | 3,318                                     | 8%                            | 3,348                                   | 8%                            |
| <i>West Midlands</i>            | 5,027                                   | 11%                           | 4,751                                     | 11%                           | 4,290                                   | 10%                           |
| <i>Yorkshire and the Humber</i> | 4,820                                   | 11%                           | 4,824                                     | 12%                           | 4,502                                   | 11%                           |
| Northern Ireland                | 1,481                                   | 3%                            | 1,249                                     | 3%                            | 1,239                                   | 3%                            |
| Wales                           | 2,904                                   | 6%                            | 2,743                                     | 7%                            | 2,775                                   | 7%                            |
| Scotland                        | 2,842                                   | 6%                            | -   | -                             | 2,526                                   | 6%                            |
| <b>UK Total</b>                 | <b>45,175</b>                           |                               | <b>41,406</b><br>(Not including Scotland) | <b>100%</b>                   | <b>41,464</b>                           | <b>100%</b>                   |

## Age

Table 2: Number of children belonging, by age

|                      | Pre-school             | Primary aged            | Secondary aged          | Post 16 in school     | Young people in education who have completed year 11 but not in maintained sixth forms (e.g. in FE, apprenticeships, other) | Total            |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| England              | 5,655<br>(15%)         | 15,944<br>(43%)         | 12,472<br>(34%)         | 1,801<br>(5%)         | 806<br>(2%)   | 36,678<br>(100%) |
| Northern Ireland     | 208<br>(14%)           | 672<br>(45%)            | 502<br>(34%)            | 99<br>(7%)            | 0<br>(0%)   | 1,481<br>(100%)  |
| Scotland             | 444<br>(16%)           | 1,315<br>(46%)          | 979<br>(34%)            | 86<br>(3%)            | 5<br>(0.2%)   | 2,829<br>(100%)  |
| Wales                | 308<br>(11%)           | 1,630<br>(56%)          | 842<br>(29%)            | 109<br>(4%)           | 15<br>(1%)  | 2,904<br>(100%)  |
| <b>All countries</b> | <b>6,615<br/>(15%)</b> | <b>19,561<br/>(45%)</b> | <b>14,795<br/>(34%)</b> | <b>2,095<br/>(5%)</b> | <b>826<br/>(2%)</b>   | <b>43,892</b>    |

Across all of the countries surveyed in the main survey this year, CRIDE believes that it is clear that the number of deaf young people in Further Education is being under reported. This is backed up by individual responses to the survey where services have indicated they hold no information on young people in Further Education because their service does not provide support.

## Level of deafness

Table 3: Number of children belonging, by level of deafness<sup>3</sup>

|                  | <b>Unilateral</b>      | <b>Mild</b>             | <b>Moderate</b>         | <b>Severe</b>          | <b>Profound</b>        | <b>Total</b>     |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| England          | 6,124<br>(17%)         | 9,777<br>(28%)          | 11,220<br>(32%)         | 3,790<br>(11%)         | 4,421<br>(13%)         | 35,332<br>(100%) |
| Northern Ireland | 241<br>(17%)           | 410<br>(29%)            | 432<br>(31%)            | 157<br>(11%)           | 176<br>(12%)           | 1,416<br>(100%)  |
| Scotland         | 339<br>(12%)           | 581<br>(21%)            | 810<br>(29%)            | 379<br>(14%)           | 482<br>(18%)           | 2,591<br>(100%)  |
| Wales            | 334<br>(12%)           | 920<br>(32%)            | 1,061<br>(37%)          | 281<br>(10%)           | 286<br>(10%)           | 2,882<br>(100%)  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>7,038<br/>(16%)</b> | <b>11,688<br/>(28%)</b> | <b>13,523<br/>(32%)</b> | <b>4,607<br/>(11%)</b> | <b>5,365<br/>(13%)</b> | <b>42,221</b>    |

## Educational provision

Table 4: Number of deaf children belonging by type of educational provision, regardless of whether in or out of the local authority

|   | <b>England</b>           | <b>Northern Ireland</b> | <b>Scotland</b>         | <b>Wales</b>            | <b>All countries</b>     |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Supported at home – pre-school  | 4,849<br>(13.2%)         | 182<br>(12%)            | 282<br>(10.1%)          | 255<br>(8.8%)           | 5,568<br>(12.6%)         |
| Supported at home – of school age and home educated                           | 168<br>(0.5%)            | 0<br>(0%)               | 33<br>(1.2%)            | 5<br>(0.2%)             | 206<br>(0.5%)            |
| Mainstream provision (including academies and independent schools)            | 22,488<br>(61%)          | 905<br>(62%)            | 1,979<br>(70.6%)        | 2,159<br>(74.4%)        | 27,531<br>(62.5%)        |
| Mainstream provision: resource provision                                      | 2,482<br>(6.7%)          | 29<br>(2%)              | 209<br>(7.5%)           | 194<br>(6.7%)           | 2,914<br>(6.6%)          |
| Special schools for deaf pupils   | 972<br>(2.6%)            | 30<br>(2%)              | 68<br>(2.4%)            | 22<br>(0.8%)            | 1,092<br>(2.5%)          |
| Other special schools   | 3,510<br>(9.5%)          | 256<br>(17%)            | 229<br>(8.2%)           | 171<br>(5.9%)           | 4,166<br>(9.5%)          |
| All post 16 provision including school sixth forms, FE, apprenticeships, etc. | 2,164<br>(5.9%)          | 67<br>(5%)              | <5<br>(<0.2%)           | 91<br>(3.2%)            | 2,327<br>(5.3%)          |
| Other (e.g. Pupil referral units, NEET, not known)                            | 229<br>(0.6%)            | 0<br>(0%)               | <5<br>(<0.2%)           | <5<br>(<0.2%)           | 239<br>(0.5%)            |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>36,862<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>1,469<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>2,810<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>2,902<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>44,043<br/>(100%)</b> |

<sup>3</sup> Please note, table 3 excludes numbers of children where services did not know the level of deafness.

Table 5: Number of school-aged deaf children belonging by type of educational provision, regardless of whether in or out of the local authority (excluding pre-school, post 16 and 'Other')

|  | <b>England</b>           | <b>Northern Ireland</b> | <b>Scotland</b>         | <b>Wales</b>            | <b>All countries</b> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Supported at home – of school age and home educated                | 168<br>(0.6%)            | 0<br>(0%)               | 33<br>(1.3%)            | 5<br>(0.2%)             | 206<br>(0.6%)        |
| Mainstream provision (including academies and independent schools) | 22,488<br>(75.9%)        | 905<br>(74%)            | 1,979<br>(78.5%)        | 2,159<br>(84.6%)        | 27,531<br>(76.6%)    |
| Mainstream provision: resource provision                           | 2,482<br>(8.4%)          | 29<br>(2%)              | 209<br>(8.3%)           | 194<br>(7.7%)           | 2,914<br>(8.1%)      |
| Special schools for deaf pupils                                    | 972<br>(3.3%)            | 30<br>(2%)              | 68<br>(2.7%)            | 22<br>(0.8%)            | 1,092<br>(3.1%)      |
| Other special schools  | 3,510<br>(11.9%)         | 256<br>(21%)            | 229<br>(9.1%)           | 171<br>(6.7%)           | 4,166<br>(11.6%)     |
| <b>Total (excluding pre-school, post 16 and 'other')</b>           | <b>29,620<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>1,220<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>2,518<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>2,551<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>35,909</b>        |

### *Auditory neuropathy*

Many services appeared to have difficulties identifying how many deaf children had auditory neuropathy. The survey indicates that there are 607 deaf children across the UK with auditory neuropathy identified by services. This is around 1.3% of the adjusted total of all deaf children in the UK.

### *Additional special educational needs*

Table 6: Number of deaf children belonging with additional special educational needs (SEN)

Please note: In Scotland, the term additional support for learning (ASL) is used.

|                  | <b>Number of deaf children with additional SEN needs</b> | <b>Proportion of deaf children with additional SEN of all deaf children in each nation</b> |
|------------------|--|--|
| England          | 8,196  | 21%  |
| Northern Ireland | 357  | 24%  |
| Scotland         | 637  | 22%  |
| Wales            | 457  | 16%  |
| <b>UK</b>        | <b>9,647</b>   | <b>21%</b>   |

Services were asked to identify whether any deaf children had an additional special educational need (SEN) and then to breakdown this figure by type of SEN, using the classification set out in the SEN Code of Practice. Research<sup>4</sup> from 1996 suggested that 40% of deaf children have additional needs. However, this research uses a wide definition of additional needs (including, for example, eczema and cerebral palsy). Some of these needs may have no impact on educational learning and thus, may not have been reported in the above figures.

### *Cochlear implants*

<sup>4</sup> Fortnum et al. (1996) Health service implication of changes in aetiology and referral patterns of hearing impaired children in the Trent region.

Table 7: Number of deaf children belonging with cochlear implants, by age group (identified by services)

|                  | Number of deaf children with cochlear implants | Proportion of deaf children with cochlear implants of all deaf children in each nation |
|------------------|--|--|
| England          | 2,967  | 8%   |
| Northern Ireland | 118  | 8%   |
| Scotland         | 279  | 10%  |
| Wales            | 138  | 5%   |
| <b>UK</b>        | <b>3,502</b>                                   | <b>8%</b>  |

### Languages

Table 8: Number of deaf children belonging, by main language used with the child (identified by services)

|   | England        | Northern Ireland | Scotland      | Wales         | All countries |
|---|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Spoken language (English or Welsh)  | 25,705 (79.3%) | 1,377 (94.5%)    | 1,598 (83.6%) | 1,435 (90.2%) | 30,115        |
| Other spoken language   | 1,106 (3.4%)   | 9 (0.6%)         | 17 (0.9)      | 23 (1.4%)     | 1,155         |
| Sign Language only (BSL)  | 643 (2%)       | 21 (1.4%)        | 58 (3%)       | 22 (1.4%)     | 744           |
| Other sign language (including Irish Sign Language)                       | 394 (1.2%)     | 23 (1.6%)        | 11 (0.6%)     | 8 (0.5%)      | 436           |
| Spoken language (English, Welsh or other) with sign language (BSL or ISL) | 1,902 (5.9%)   | 16 (1.1%)        | 221 (11.6%)   | 76 (4.8%)     | 2,215         |
| Spoken language (English or Welsh) and other spoken Language              | 2,657 (8.2%)   | 11 (0.8%)        | 9 (0.5%)      | 28 (1.8%)     | 2,705         |
| <b>Total (where known)</b>  | <b>32,407</b>  | <b>1,457</b>     | <b>1,915</b>  | <b>1,592</b>  | <b>37,371</b> |

Please note: table 6 only includes data where the languages used by the child were known.

Some services were unable to provide information on the languages spoken by children in their area and the above table is based on information provided about 37,371 children. This leaves 7,804 deaf children for whom we have no information about languages spoken. However, the percentage of deaf children for whom services have been able to provide data on for this question has increased since 2012.

### Teachers of the Deaf

Table 9: Number of full time equivalent (FTE) Teachers of the Deaf in employment in peripatetic services

|  | England             | Northern Ireland   | Scotland            | Wales              | All countries       |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification                      | 663.7 (96%)         | 26.2 (90%)         | 84.5 (73%)          | 39.2 (93%)         | 813.6 (93%)         |
| Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years        | 23.2 (3%)           | 3 (10%)            | 25 (22%)            | 3 (7%)             | 54.2 (6%)           |
| Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training | 3.2 (0.5%)          | 0 (0%)             | 5.9 (5%)            | 0 (0%)             | 9.1 (1%)            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>690.1 (100%)</b> | <b>29.2 (100%)</b> | <b>115.4 (100%)</b> | <b>42.2 (100%)</b> | <b>876.9 (100%)</b> |

Table 10: Number of full time equivalent (FTE) Teachers of the Deaf in employment in resource provisions

|  | England                 | Northern Ireland      | Scotland               | Wales                  | All countries           |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification                      | 368.2<br>(89%)          | 3.8<br>(66%)          | 56.1<br>(60%)          | 27.3<br>(93%)          | 455.4<br>(84%)          |
| Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years        | 42.2<br>(10%)           | 1<br>(17%)            | 33.5<br>(36%)          | 2<br>(7%)              | 78.7<br>(14%)           |
| Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training | 5.2<br>(1%)             | 1<br>(17%)            | 3.6<br>(4%)            | 0<br>(0%)              | 9.8<br>(2%)             |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>415.6<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>5.8<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>93.2<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>29.3<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>543.9<br/>(100%)</b> |

In addition to the above, across the UK, 54.4 vacancies and frozen posts were reported (in England, Wales and Scotland, no vacancies were reported in Northern Ireland).

Combining the figures, there are at least 1,484.8 teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf in employment across the UK (excluding teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training). Taking vacancies and frozen posts into account, there are at least **1,539.2** Teacher of the Deaf posts across the UK.

#### *Other specialist staff*

Table 11: Number of full time equivalent (FTE) specialist support staff overall, by role (identified by services)

|   | England                   | Northern Ireland    | Scotland                | Wales                  | All countries  |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Teaching assistants / Classroom support assistants etc              | 834.3<br>(63%)            | 3<br>(100%)         | 51.7<br>(47%)           | 68.9<br>(83%)          | 957.9<br>(60%) |
| Communication support workers / Interpreters / Communicators etc    | 241.8<br>(18%)            | 0<br>(0%)           | 20<br>(18%)             | 10<br>(12%)            | 271.8 (24%)    |
| Deaf instructors / Deaf role models / Sign language instructors etc | 97.7<br>(7%)              | 0<br>(0%)           | 8.8<br>(8%)             | 0<br>(0%)              | 106.5<br>(6%)  |
| Educational audiologists / Technicians etc                          | 67.1<br>(5%)              | 0<br>(0%)           | 7.8<br>(7%)             | 1.5<br>(2%)            | 76.4<br>(5%)   |
| Speech and language therapists                                      | 63.0<br>(5%)              | 0<br>(0%)           | 15.3<br>(14%)           | 2.5<br>(3%)            | 80.8<br>(2%)   |
| Family support workers / Liaison officers                           | 13.2<br>(1%)              | 0<br>(0%)           | 4<br>(4%)               | 0<br>(0%)              | 17.2<br>(2%)   |
| Social workers / Social workers for deaf children                   | 8.3<br>(1%)               | 0<br>(0%)           | 2<br>(2%)               | 0.5<br>(1%)            | 10.8<br>(0.7%) |
| <b>Total (excluding "Others")</b>                                   | <b>1,325.4<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>3<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>109.6<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>83.4<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>1,521.4</b> |

The above table shows some wide variations in the specialist staff, other than Teachers of the Deaf, employed by specialist educational services for deaf children. In all of the countries, teaching assistants are the most common type of other specialist staff but the proportion ranges from 47% of all other specialist staff in Scotland to 100% in Northern Ireland.

## Background

CRIDE is a consortium bringing together 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 2013 survey was issued, representatives include: the [British Association of Teachers of the Deaf](#) (BATOD), the [Ear Foundation](#), the [Ewing Foundation](#), the [National Deaf Children's Society](#) (NDCS), [National Sensory Impairment Partnership](#) (NatSIP), [Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children](#), [Mary Hare School](#), [London Borough of Barnet](#), [UCL](#) and [City University London](#).

Table 11: Response rate

| Country              | Number of services | Percentage of all services |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| England              | 127                | 98% <sup>5</sup>           |
| Northern Ireland     | 5                  | 100%                       |
| Scotland             | 30                 | 100%                       |
| Wales                | 21                 | 100%                       |
| <b>All countries</b> | <b>153</b>         | <b>99%</b>                 |

Analysis of the results using Excel and drafting of this report was largely completed by NDCS with guidance and clearance from members of CRIDE.

We 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 [professionals@ndcs.org.uk](mailto:professionals@ndcs.org.uk).

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<sup>5</sup> The two local authorities that did not respond were not contacted on the understanding that there are no or very few deaf children living in those areas.