**Scottish Government attainment and leavers’ destinations data**

**National Deaf Children’s Society briefing**

1. **Summary**

* The data published in 2019 for the 2017/18 cohort of school leavers illustrates that a significant attainment gap continues to exist for deaf learners;
  + 8.2% of deaf learners left school with no qualification (compared with 2.6% of all pupils) and 42.6% obtained Highers or Advanced Highers (compared with 61.3% of all pupils)
  + The gap continues post-school with 26.8% of deaf learners going on to university compared with 48.1% of those with no additional support needs (ASN).
* We are concerned that the number of deaf young people obtaining no qualification continues.
* Additionally, there is still a significant gap (28.7%) in numbers of deaf pupils obtaining Highers and Advanced Highers compated with those pupils with no ASN.
* Similarly, there continues to be a large discrepancy in numbers of deaf pupils entering HE settings compared with no ASN pupils (21.3%).
* Entry into FE settings by deaf pupils post-school continues to rise and be the most popular destination for this group.

1. **Background**

* There are at least 3363 deaf children and young people in Scotland today (CRIDE 2018)
* 90% of deaf children have hearing parents or carers, this makes support, intervention and information in the early years crucial for families, to ensure children have the best start in life;
* Around 87% of deaf children are educated in mainstream schools, making additional specialist support crucial to ensuring these learners reach their full potential;
* The specialist teacher workforce continues to face challenges with data suggesting overall reductions in numbers of Teachers of the Deaf in education authorities between 2015 and 2018 (CRIDE 2017)
* With the right support, deaf young people can achieve as much as their hearing peers. However we continue to be concerned about the persisting education attainment gap facing deaf young people.

1. **Statistics in context**

* Comparison of pre-2015 data is challenging as this marked the first year of the new set of results from the new qualifications framework, with National 4 and 5 qualifications replacing Standard Grades. A key difference with the new qualifications is how they are assessed.
* There are 7 methods of assessment being used by practitioners, only one of which is written tests or examination. The others are: projects, assignments, practical activity, portfolio, case study and performance.
* The shift towards continual assessment and away from written examination has the potential to benefit deaf learners where they are being effectively supported and appropriate reasonable adjustments made.
* Deafness can impact negatively on a child’s working memory skills, being able to hold information in mind while working on related activities – crucial for successful traditional written examinations.
* Deafness is a low incidence ASN and every year the number of school leavers in Scotland is small and can naturally vary. In 2018 the number of school leavers increased to 291 from 278 the previous year. With varying cohort sizes, it is more difficult to identify trends year on year and account for fluctuations in statistics.

1. **Attainment**

**4.1. School leavers with no qualifications t SCQF Level 2 or better (%)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **No qualifications** | |  |
|  | **Deaf pupils** | **No ASN pupils** | **All pupils** |
| **2009/10** | 9.1 | 1.9 | 2.9 |
| **2010/11** | 12.6 | 1.5 | 2.6 |
| **2011/12** | 8.2 | 1.1 | 2.2 |
| **2012/13** | 9.8 | 0.9 | 2 |
| **2013/14** | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| **2014/15** | 11.8 | 1.2 | 2.6 |
| **2015/16** | 10.3 | 1.1 | 2.5 |
| **2016/17** | 9.4 | 1 | 2.5 |
| **2017/18** | 8.2 | 1.1 | 2.6 |

Numbers of deaf children leaving school is down slightly from last year’s cohort, which is positive. However we continue to see a gap between numbers of deaf children leaving school with no qualifications compared with all school leavers, with 8.2% being a significant percentage of a small cohort.

**4.2. Numbers obtaining National 4 and National 5 qualifications (qualifying for FE)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Deaf pupils** | **No ASN pupils** | **All pupils** |
| **2009/10** | 51.6 | 43.4 | 43.9 |
| **2010/11** | 34.9 | 40.8 | 42.5 |
| **2011/12** | 45.2 | 37.3 | 39.9 |
| **2012/13** | 45.1 | 36.6 | 40.2 |
| **2013/14** | 51.6 | 33.2 | 37.5 |
| **2014/15** | 43.1 | 31.1 | 35.8 |
| **2015/16** | 38.3 | 29.1 | 34.5 |
| **2016/17** | 37.4 | 28.5 | 34.9 |
| **2017/18** | 39.5 | 27 | 34 |

The number of deaf school school leavers obtaining N4 and N5 as their highest qualification has increased for the first time in two years. FE continues to be the most popular post-school destination for deaf school leavers. Currently data is not collected on the experiences of deaf learners in FE settings.

**4.3. Numbers obtaining Highers and Advanced Highers (qualifying for HE)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Deaf pupils** | **No ASN pupils** | **All pupils** |
| **2009/10** | 12.1 | 52.7 | 49.8 |
| **2010/11** | 25.2 | 55.8 | 51.8 |
| **2011/12** | 36.4 | 60.2 | 54.8 |
| **2012/13** | 36.3 | 61.1 | 54.8 |
| **2013/14** | 33.3 | 64.8 | 58 |
| **2014/15** | 38.7 | 67 | 59.3 |
| **2015/16** | 44.2 | 69.1 | 60.7 |
| **2016/17** | 42.4 | 69.8 | 60.3 |
| **2017/18** | 42.6 | 71.3 | 61.3 |

It is concernin that there has been no significant increase from last year’s drop in numbers of deaf pupils obtaining Highers/Advanced Highers. There continues to be a significant gap in deaf learners obtaining these qualifications compared with their hearing peers. This gap continues to be of concern.

1. **School leavers destinations**

**5.1. Numbers entering FE (initial destination)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Deaf pupils** | **No ASN pupils** | **All pupils** |
| **2009/10** | 37.4 | 26 | 27.1 |
| **2010/11** | 42.4 | 25.8 | 27.1 |
| **2011/12** | 45.2 | 24.9 | 27 |
| **2012/13** | 48 | 25.7 | 28 |
| **2013/14** | 45.7 | 23.5 | 26.5 |
| **2014/15** | 46.1 | 24.6 | 27.9 |
| **2015/16** | 37.4 | 23.1 | No data |
| **2016/17** | 38.8 | 22.5 | No data |
| **2017/18** | 43.6 | 21.9 | No data |

Deaf pupils’ access to college continues to increase with this setting continuing to be the preferred choice for the majority of deaf school leavers. It is important to note that as this rate increases the number of pupils with no ASN is decreasing, with this groups’ most popular destination being university.

**5.2. Numbers entering HE (initial destination)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Deaf pupils** | **No ASN pupils** | **All pupils** |
| **2009/2010** | 11.1 | 37.3 | 35.7 |
| **2010/11** | 17.4 | 38.2 | 35.8 |
| **2011/12** | 24 | 40.4 | 36.8 |
| **2012/13** | 20.1 | 40.3 | 36 |
| **2013/14** | 24.7 | 43.9 | 39 |
| **2014/15** | 22.1 | 43.6 | 38.2 |
| **2015/16** | 36.1 | 45.9 | No data |
| **2016/17** | 25.2 | 47.3 | No data |
| **2017/18** | 26.8 | 48.1 | No data |

There has been a slight increase in those deaf pupils entering HE in this year’s cohort. However little traction has been made to account for the significant drop in numbers entering university in the previous year. In addition to that there continues to be a steady increase in numbers of pupils with no ASN entering university.

**5.3. Numbers moving into employment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Deaf pupils** | **No ASN pupils** | **All pupils** |
| **2009/10** | 5.6 | 18.9 | 18.5 |
| **2010/11** | 19.6 | 19.7 | 19.3 |
| **2011/12** | 10.3 | 20.4 | 19.6 |
| **2012/13** | 12.3 | 21 | 20.1 |
| **2013/14** | 12.4 | 22.1 | 21.1 |
| **2014/15** | 13.7 | 22.1 | 21.2 |
| **2015/16** | 15.5 | 22.8 | No data |
| **2016/17** | 14.7 | 22.5 | No data |
| **2017/18** | 13.4 | 23.3 | No data |

There has been a slight drop in numbers of deaf school leavers entering employment. This is of concern as those pupils with no ASN have seen an increase. As the graph illustrates, there continues to be a wide gap between the number of deaf pupils obtaining employment after school and the number of those with no ASN who do.

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