

Post-16 education data on deaf young people

Updated December 2020

Introduction

This paper analyses the data that is currently published in all four countries of the UK on deaf young people in relation to post-16 education and employment.

As education and training is a devolved function of government, most statistics published are country-specific rather than UK wide. The appendix to this paper provides a summary of the data that is currently published or not published about the attainment of deaf young people.

Summary of existing data and gaps

Destinations

The Government has published data on the destinations of deaf young people in England after completing key stage 4 at the age of 16:

Table 1: Destinations after KS4 in 2017-2018

	Deaf young people	Young people with no identified SEN
Sustained education/employment destination	94%	95%
Apprenticeships	3%	4%
Further Education college or other FE provider	48%	35%
School 6 th form (state funded)	27%	40%
6 th form college	8%	12%
Other education destinations*	5%	1%
Sustained employment destination	3%	3%

*'Other education destinations' include special schools and specialist post-16 institutions, alternative provision and independent schools.

The data shows that further education colleges are the most common destination for deaf young people at 16 and that one fifth less deaf young people attend a school 6th form compared to those without SEN. A similar trend is seen amongst young people who do not achieve 5 GCSE passes which is the situation for the majority of deaf young people.

Following an FOI request, we obtained data about young people's destinations after completing 16-18 education in schools and colleges

Table 2: 2017/18 destination after KS5 for the 2016-17 cohort

	Deaf school leavers	Non-SEN school leavers	Deaf college students	Non LLDD* college students
Apprenticeships	5%	7%	8%	11%
Further education	7%	3%	28%	11%
UK HE institution	59%	54%	20%	24%
<i>Russell Group</i>	14%	16%	3%	4%
<i>Other HE provider</i>	45%	38%	17%	20%
Sustained employment	14%	20%	21%	29%

*Learner with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities

This year the Key Stage 5 destinations data includes not just students of approved level 3 qualifications (A levels, applied general qualifications and tech levels) but all level 3, level 2, level 1 and entry level qualifications. The data is split between school and college students because of differences in how the data is collected. It tells us that a higher proportion of deaf college students move on to further education than non-disabled college students. The proportion of deaf school leavers moving on to higher education is similar to the proportion of non-disabled school leavers moving on to higher education.

In Scotland destination data for school-leavers is published annually. Data for 2018-19 shows that 39.9% of school leavers move on to further education, and 31.6% of school leavers moved to higher education.

Table 3: Destination of school leavers in Scotland in 2018-19

	Deaf school-leavers	No additional support needs
Number of Leavers	291	33,935
Higher Education	31.6%	47.8%
Further Education	39.9%	22.2%
Training	5.8%	2.0%
Employment	15.5%	23.8%
Voluntary Work	*	0.6%
Unemployed and Seeking Employment or Training	2.1%	2.3%
Unemployed and Not Seeking Employment or Training	3.1%	0.9%

*Percentages based on numbers of less than 5 are not published

16-19 Attainment across all settings

For England, statistics are published on the government's website on the attainment of 16-19 year olds showing the proportion of deaf young people that progress to achieve 5 GCSE passes or equivalent vocational qualifications by the age of 19 (level 2). The same statistics also show progression rates to 2 A-level passes or equivalent vocational qualifications (level 3).

These statistics provide a useful indicator of progress for deaf young people post-16 particularly as they cover a range of qualifications and different settings. Focusing only on A-level attainment would mean the majority of deaf young people are excluded from the data.

Table 6: Attainment of deaf young people (SEN cohort) by age 19 in England (attainment percentages of young people with no SEN shown in brackets)

Year	Level 2	Level 2 including English and Maths	Level 3
2010	69% (86%)	37% (66%)	38% (58%)
2011	72% (89%)	39% (70%)	37% (62%)
2012	75% (91%)	42% (73%)	41% (64%)
2013	76% (92%)	44% (75%)	43% (66%)
2014	77% (92%)	47% (77%)	44% (66%)
2015	77% (92%)	48% (78%)	43% (66%)
2016	77% (91%)	51% (78%)	44% (65%)
2017	74% (89%)	48% (78%)	41% (65%)
2018	73% (88%)	52% (76%)	44% (63%)

In Wales some data is available on FE attainment of deaf people but this is not specific to those under 25. The numbers of deaf young people in FE at different ages are published online but no information is available on their outcomes or destinations.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland no statistics were available on further education attainment for hearing students other than a head count. This presents a greater challenge to acquiring data about deaf students when there are no available data sets for student attainment in general.

A-level/Highers attainment

Unlike GCSEs, in England and Northern Ireland no breakdown is provided for A-level results by type of SEN or disability. However, success rates for deaf students at Scottish Highers (Level 6) and Advanced Highers (Level 7) are published along with destinations data. Highers are the main university entrance qualification in Scotland.

Table 4: School leavers in Scotland achieving their highest qualification at Level 6 and above in 2017-2018

	1+ @ SCQF Level 6 or 1+ @ SCQF Level 7
No additional support needs	69.8%
Deaf students	42.6%

For Wales, statistics have been made available on attainment of deaf students at A-levels (or equivalent) in schools for 2012 to 2019. However, these statistics are provided on request on an ad-hoc basis.

Table 5: Deaf students in Wales achieving two or more A-levels (data for school pupils only) (data for all pupils aged 17 in Wales shown in brackets)

Year	Numbers taking two or more A-levels (or equivalent)	Percentage achieving two or more A-levels or equivalent	Average points score
2012	26 (10,426)	100% (97%)	761 (819)
2013	33 (10,354)	100% (97%)	791 (838)
2014	37 (10,174)	95% (97%)	768 (851)
2015	29 (11,838)	95% (97%)	777.9 (799.7)
2016	28 (10,804)	95% (98%)	824.9 (823.2)
2017	29 (10,152)	98% (97%)	760.5 (730.6)
2018	28 (9,452)	100% (98%)	817.4 (740.1)
2019	39 (9,148)	98% (98%)	711.9 (741.3)

The above statistics should be treated with caution due to the small numbers involved. However, they suggest that there is an attainment gap at A-level for deaf students in terms of the grades achieved.

Apprenticeships

The Government in England publishes breakdowns of apprenticeship numbers and completion rates. They previously provided a breakdown by type of disability which allowed us to see how many deaf people take apprenticeships for different age groups:

Table 7: Apprenticeship participation of deaf young people by age, England

Year	Under 19	19-24
2008/09	380	450
2009/10	420	510
2010/11	440	580
2011/12	430	610
2012/13	400	630
2013/14	440	690
2014/15	490	760
2015/16	480	740
2016/17	570	840
2017/18	490	790
2018/19	470	760

The figures show that there are over 1200 deaf young people taking apprenticeships each year with a 48% increase since 2009 but with a decline between 2017 and 2019.

What the published statistics do not show is what level deaf young people are achieving apprenticeships (i.e. Level 2 or Level 3) and in which sectors. Nor do we have any information about their destinations following completion. An FOI in 2018 revealed how many deaf young people aged 16-24 started Level 2, 3 and 4+ apprenticeships in 2014-15.

Table 8: Deaf young people aged 16-24 started Level 2, 3 and 4+ apprenticeships in 2016-17

Level	Numbers started in 2016-17
Intermediate (Level 2)	460
Advanced (Level 3)	330
Higher (Level 4+)	30

Whilst in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, data is published regularly on apprenticeships; no breakdowns are available for type of disability.

Traineeships and supported internships

The Government does not collect data on Supported Internships which means it is not known how many young people are on them in England. Traineeship data is not broken down by type of disability.

Higher Education

Statistics for higher education are collected and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency and some data relating to deaf students is published:

Table 9: Applicants and successful applicants (through UCAS) who are deaf or 'seriously hearing impaired'

Year	Number of deaf applicants	Number of deaf accepted applicants	% deaf accepted applicants	% Non-disabled accepted applicants
2010	1,025	740	72%	72%
2011	980	695	71%	73%
2012	905	640	71%	75%
2013	1,030	800	78%	77%
2014	1,060	780	74%	77%
2015	1,140	880	77%	78%
2016	1,190	930	78%	79%
2017	1,175	950	81%	81%
2018	1,190	970	82%	82%
2019	1,220	995	82%	82%

Statistics are also available on the number of first year UK domiciled students who are deaf by level and mode of study (i.e. undergraduate, postgraduate taught, part-time, etc). The totals differ from the UCAS statistics but the trends seen are similar.

The number of entrants into HE provides us with an indication of the progress deaf young people make in education if we assume reaching HE to be a measure of success. Numbers have stayed steady relative to the overall number of entrants since 2010 when there was a change in categorisation from 'hearing impaired' to 'severely hearing impaired'.

Advance HE provides statistics on undergraduate student outcomes and on student destinations. These suggest that there is a small attainment gap between deaf and hearing students. However, no numbers are provided for those who do not qualify. Destination statistics from 2017 suggest that half of deaf graduates move into employment. However, at lower rates compared with non-disabled students.

Table 10: Degree classifications of UK first degree undergraduate qualifiers in 2017-2018

Class	Percentage deaf 1st degree undergraduate qualifiers	Percentage non-disabled 1st degree undergrad qualifiers
1 st /2.1	72% (605)	77% (262,710)
2.2/3 rd /pass	28% (230)	23 (80,420)

Table 11: Destinations of UK higher education leavers 6 months after graduation in 2017

Destination	Deaf students	Non-disabled students
Full-time work	52.1%	57.0%
Part-time work	13.9%	11.5%
Primarily in work and also studying	2.8%	2.1%
Primarily studying and also in work	2.5%	3.3%
Full-time study	14.5%	16.2%
Part-time study	1.0%	0.8%
Due to start work	1.5%	1.0%
Unemployed	5.9%	3.8%
Other	5.6%	4.2%

Employment / NEETs

Data is published quarterly by the Department of Work and Pensions on deaf adults in employment using data from the Labour Force Survey. The percentages fluctuate widely from quarter to quarter between 45 to 65% and we have been informed by the Office of National Statistics that they are an unreliable estimate due to the small cohort of deaf people surveyed.

Data about deaf young people aged 16-18 who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is not published by the Government. However, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) published NEET statistics in April 2017.

Table 12: Percentage of young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training

Status	NEET 2010/11	NEET 2015/16
Deaf	20%	7%
Not disabled	9%	6%

The above statistics suggest that the proportion of deaf 16-18 year olds who are NEET has declined significantly in the past 5 years. However, the statistics must be treated with caution. Due to the small sample sizes, there is a margin of error of several percentage points.

Appendix – Existing Post-16 Data sets and equivalent data on deaf young people

England

Data sets	Data for deaf young people
16-18 attainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 3 pass rates 16-18 - Level 1 and 2 English & Maths pass rates 16-18 - Attainment by age 19 - Destinations after KS4 and KS5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not available (only attainment by age 19) - Level 2 English and Maths pass rates 16-19 (see T10) - Breakdown provided (see T7-9) - Breakdown provided for KS4
Apprenticeships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Success rates by age group - Total numbers taking apprenticeships by age group - Apprenticeship starts by level and region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FE and Skills Participation by level and learning difficulty or disability - None. By disability status only - None.
Traineeships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completions and progressions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
Higher Education* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of applicants via UCAS - Number of first year students by level - Qualifications obtained (class and level) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of applicants - Breakdown (online tool) - Breakdown provided from Advance HE
NEETS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of 16-18 year olds in education and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistics published by EHRC

*UK-wide

Northern Ireland

Data sets	Data for DYP
16-18 attainment at school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Destinations after leaving school - A-level attainment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None. For SEN/No SEN only - None
Attainment in FE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None. Only enrolment data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None.
Higher Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See England table for UK stats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See England table for UK stats
Apprenticeships NI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers of apprenticeships by age, level and achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
NEETs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No up to date statistics found 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None

Scotland

Data sets	Data for DYP
16-18 attainment at school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Destinations after leaving school - Attainment at Levels 6 and 7 (Highers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakdown provided - Breakdown provided
Attainment in FE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No stats found for hearing students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
Higher Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See England table for UK stats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See England table for UK stats
Modern Apprenticeships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers of apprenticeships by age, level and achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None. By disability status only.
NEETS	

- Youth unemployment stats 16-24	- None
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Wales

Data sets	Data for DYP
16-18 attainment at school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A-level result breakdown by subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deaf students achieving two or more A-levels
Further Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers taking FE courses, apprenticeships and traineeships by age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers taking FE courses
Higher Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See England table for UK stats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See England table for UK stats
Apprenticeships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See FE stats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
NEETS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers 16-18 year olds NEET and 19-24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakdown for disabled/not disabled only