



Consortium for Research in Deaf Education

2014 UK-wide summary

CRIDE report on 2014 survey on educational provision for deaf children

Introduction

In 2014, the Consortium for Research into Deaf Education (CRIDE) conducted surveys 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 2013/14 financial year. Separate reports are 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 core questions asked across all four countries as a whole. Further information and context, including responses to other questions asked in different country surveys, can be found in the full country reports, available to download from www.ndcs.org.uk/CRIDE or <http://www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/resources/survey>.

There was effectively a 98% response rate across all four countries of the UK. 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.

Findings

Numbers of deaf children 'belonging'

According to our survey, the total number of deaf children¹ aged 0 to 19 across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is at least **48,125**. This is a 7% increase from 45,175 in 2013 and a 16% increase since 2011. It is difficult to be certain about the extent to which this increase is due to changes in demography, increase in numbers of deaf children being diagnosed or improvements in reporting.

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

Table 1: Number of deaf children belonging, by nation and region in 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011

Country (Region)	Number and percentage of deaf children reported (2014)	Number and percentage of deaf children reported (2013)	Number and percentage of deaf children reported (2012)	Number and percentage of deaf children reported (2011)
England:	40,614 (84%)	37,948 (84%)	37,414 (90%)	34,927 (84%)
<i>East England</i>	3,598 (7%)	3,916 (9%)	3,291 (8%)	2,572 (6%)
<i>East Midlands</i>	3,737 (8%)	2,374 (5%)	2,436 (6%)	2,334 (6%)
<i>London</i>	6,247 (13%)	6,110 (14%)	5,642 (14%)	5,271 (13%)
<i>North East</i>	2,110 (4%)	2,016 (4%)	2,056 (5%)	1,949 (5%)
<i>North West</i>	5,900 (12%)	4,656 (10%)	5,346 (13%)	5,037 (12%)
<i>South East</i>	5,859 (12%)	5,351 (12%)	5,750 (14%)	5,624 (14%)
<i>South West</i>	3,158 (7%)	3,318 (7%)	3,318 (8%)	3,348 (8%)
<i>West Midlands</i>	4,883 (10%)	5,027 (11%)	4,751 (11%)	4,290 (19%)
<i>Yorkshire and the Humber</i>	5,122 (11%)	4,820 (11%)	4,824 (12%)	4,502 (11%)
Northern Ireland	1,574 (3%)	1,481 (3%)	1,249 (3%)	1,238 (3%)
Wales	2,880 (6%)	2,904 (6%)	2,743 (7%)	2,775 (7%)
Scotland	3,057 (6%)	2,842 (6%)	-	2,526 (6%)
UK Total	48,125 (100%)	45,175 (100%)	41,406 (100%) (Not including Scotland) ²	41,464 (100%)

Teachers of the Deaf³

Table 2: 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	657 (95.4%)	26.8 (87%)	84.8 (72%)	38.85 (95.1%)	807.45 (92%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	30.9 (4.5%)	4 (13%)	25 (21%)	1 (2.4%)	60.9 (7%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	7.6 (6%)	1 (2.4%)	9.6 (1%)
Total	689.4 (100%)	30.8 (100%)	117.4 (100%)	40.85 (100%)	878.45 (100%)

² CRIDE did not carry out a survey in Scotland in 2012 to avoid duplication with a separate research project being carried out at that time within Scotland.

³ We did not ask about Teachers of the Deaf in special schools, cochlear implant centres and other settings and therefore the figures below do not provide a complete picture of the total population of Teachers of the Deaf across the UK.

Table 3: 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	341.8 (87.5%)	1.8 (100%)	53.9 (61.7%)	28.1 (96%)	425.6 (83.6%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	41.2 (10.5%)	0 (0%)	17.2 (19.7%)	1.2 (4%)	59.6 (11.7%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	7.6 (1.9%)	0 (0%)	16.2 (18.6)	0 (0%)	23.8 (4.7%)
Total	390.6 (100%)	1.8 (100%)	87.3 (100%)	29.3 (100%)	509.0 (100%)

In addition to the above, across the UK, 49.2 vacancies and frozen posts were reported across Great Britain (no vacancies were reported in Northern Ireland).

Combining the figures, there are at least 1,387.45 teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf in employment across the UK. Taking vacancies and frozen posts into account, there are at least **1,436.65** Teacher of the Deaf posts across the UK.

This compares to 1,432.5 teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf and 1,482.2 Teacher of the Deaf posts in total across the UK in 2013. On both measures, there has been a 3% decline across the UK in numbers of Teachers of the Deaf in employment and posts in the past year.

We did not ask about Teachers of the Deaf in special schools, cochlear implant centres and other settings and therefore the previous figures do not provide a complete picture of the total population of Teachers of the Deaf in Wales.

Age profile of Teachers of the Deaf

Table 4: Age ranges of Teachers of the Deaf (in employment or in training)⁴

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	All countries
Aged 49 or under	505.7 (48.7%)	17.4 (54.4%)	76.4 (46.3%)	33.35 (52.6%)	632.9 (48.7%)
Aged between 50 and 59	461.85 (44.5%)	13.8 (43.1%)	80.9 (49.0%)	25.2 (39.8%)	581.8 (44.8%)
Aged between 60 and 64	67.4 (6.5%)	0.8 (2.5%)	7.7 (4.7%)	4.8 (7.6)	80.7 (6.2%)
Aged 65 or over	2.9 (0.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2.9 (0.2%)
Total	1,037.85 (100%)	32 (100%)	165 (100%)	63.35 (100%)	1,298.2 (100%)

⁴ The figures include Teachers of the Deaf in peripatetic (visiting) services and resource provisions. Not all services were able to provide totals equalling their total number of qualified Teachers of the Deaf in employment or in training, so some Teachers of the Deaf are unaccounted for in these figures.

Sign language qualifications of peripatetic Teachers of the Deaf

Table 5: Sign language qualifications of Teachers of the Deaf (in employment or in training)⁵

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	All countries
No qualification	57.0 (8%)	6.8 (25%)	5.9 (6%)	0 (0%)	69.7 (8%)
BSL Level 1	242.3 (35%)	15.6 (58%)	42.3 (41%)	20.1 (50%)	320.3 (37%)
BSL Level 2	334.5 (48%)	3.6 (13%)	45.4 (43%)	17.8 (44%)	401.3 (46.3%)
BSL Level 3 or above	61.5 (9%)	1.0 (4%)	10.8 (10%)	2.2 (5%)	75.5 (8.7%)
Total	695.2 (100%)	27 (100%)	104.4 (100%)	40.1 (100%)	866.8 (100%)

Other specialist staff

Table 6: 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	747.8 (56.8%)	0 (0%)	59.9 (62%)	79.5 (95.2%)	887.2 (59%)
Communication support workers / Interpreters / Communicators etc	364.6 (27.7%)	0 (0%)	10.4 (11%)	3.0 (3.6%)	378 (25%)
Deaf instructors / Deaf role models / Sign language instructors etc	93.4 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	8.5 (9%)	0 (0%)	101.9 (7%)
Educational audiologists / Technicians etc	65.2 (5.0%)	0 (0%)	3.3 (3%)	0.5 (0.6%)	69 (5%)
Speech and language therapists	23.9 (1.8%)	1 (100%)	12.4 (13%)	0 (0%)	37.3 (2%)
Family support workers / Liaison officers	12.2 (0.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12.2 (1%)
Social workers / Social workers for deaf children	10.0 (0.8%)	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	0.5 (0.6%)	10.5 (1%)
Total (excluding "Others")	1317.1 (100%)	1 (100%)	96.5 (100%)	83.5 (100%)	1496.1 (100%)

⁵ The figures provided in this table do not equal the number of Teachers of the Deaf in employment or in training. This is because some services provided figures that were less than their total number of Teachers of the Deaf, and some services provided figures that were more than their total number of Teachers of the Deaf.

Impact of the CRIDE reports

This is the fourth CRIDE survey, so we wanted to find out if and how services have been using the reports, and what impact the CRIDE reports have.

We asked services if they had read reports of previous CRIDE surveys. Overall, across the four countries 83% of services who gave an answer had read reports of previous CRIDE surveys and 17% hadn't.

Table 7: Have read reports of previous CRIDE surveys

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Total
Have read previous reports	108 (86%)	4 (80%)	17 (63%)	14 (93%)	143 (83%)
Have not read previous reports	17 (14%)	1 (20%)	10 (37%)	1 (7%)	29 (17%)
Total answers	125 (100%)	5 (100%)	27 (100%)	15 (100%)	172 (100%)

If services had read the reports, we asked them to tell us if they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about the reports and then how they had used the reports.

Table 8: CRIDE report statements

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total answers
The reports are clear and easy to understand	24 (17%)	115 (78%)	6 (4%)	2 (1%)	147 (100%)
The results provide information that is useful in informing discussions on local provision for deaf children	24 (17%)	98 (69%)	16 (11%)	4 (3%)	142 (100%)
The results provide information that is useful in understanding provision across the country for deaf children	33 (23%)	107 (73%)	4 (2%)	3 (2%)	147 (100%)

Table 9: How services have used previous CRIDE reports:

	Number and percentage of services in England	Number and percentage of services Northern Ireland	Number and percentage of services Scotland	Number and percentage of services Wales	Total number and percentage of services in the UK
To draw on comparable demographic findings when preparing for internal and external audits of local provision	53 (40%)	0 (0%)	5 (18%)	5 (33%)	63 (35%)
To inform strategic planning relating to staffing and staff training	42 (32%)	0 (0%)	5 (18%)	5 (33%)	52 (29%)
For research purposes.	25 (19%)	0 (0%)	4 (14%)	1 (7%)	30 (17%)
Other	20 (15%)	1 (100%)	1 (4%)	1 (7%)	23 (13%)
n=181					

Background and methodology

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 2014 survey was issued, representatives included: the [British Association of Teachers of the Deaf](#) (BATOD), [City University London](#), the [Ear Foundation](#), the [Ewing Foundation](#), [Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children](#), [Kent County Council](#), [London Borough of Barnet](#), the [National Deaf Children's Society](#) (NDCS), [National Sensory Impairment Partnership](#) (NatSIP), [Mary Hare School](#), [Sheffield City Council](#), and [UCL](#).

The survey was designed and created by members of CRIDE. Following feedback from services, it was decided to move to a shorter survey in 2014, with short / full surveys alternating in future years.

Table 10: Response rate

Country	Number of services	Percentage of all services
England	130	99% ⁶
Northern Ireland	5	100%
Scotland	28	94%
Wales	15	100%
All countries	178	98%

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.

⁶ 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.