



Consortium for Research in Deaf Education

2018 UK-wide summary

CRIDE report on 2018 survey on educational provision for deaf children

Introduction

In 2018, the Consortium for Research into Deaf Education (CRIDE) carried out its eighth annual survey on educational staffing and service provision for deaf children¹, covering the 2017/18 academic year². The survey was sent to heads of local authority specialist education services for deaf children. A separate survey asking about numbers of Teachers of the Deaf was also issued to special schools for deaf children.

This report provides a high-level summary of the results for the four nations. Separate reports have already been published for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales which set out the results for each respective nation in detail. All reports can be downloaded from www.ndcs.org.uk/CRIDE or www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/resources/survey.

CRIDE would like to take the opportunity to thank all services for responding to the survey, despite the considerable time constraints to which many services are subject.

Summary of key findings

- There are at least 51,142 deaf children across the UK. Taking into account where services did not respond to this question, CRIDE believes the actual figure is around 52,800.
- There are at least 1,484 teachers employed as Teachers of the Deaf, of which (83%) are fully qualified Teachers of the Deaf.
- There are 290 resource provisions across the UK.
- 56% of services say they provide families of pre-school deaf children with radio aids/assistive listening devices to use at home. 81% say they provide these devices for use in early year settings.

¹ For the purpose of this survey, 'deaf children' were defined as all children and young people up to the age of 19 with sensori-neural and permanent conductive deafness, using the descriptors provided by the British Society of Audiology and BATOD. We used the word 'deaf' to include all levels of deafness, from mild to profound.

² Reports from previous years can be found on the National Deaf Children's Society website at www.ndcs.org.uk/CRIDE or on the BATOD website at <https://www.batod.org.uk/information/cride-reports/>.

Interpreting the results

Services and schools were asked to give figures for the position as of 31st January 2018.

In terms of the main survey, it is clear that many services still report difficulties in extracting data about deaf children in their area and there remain inconsistencies in how different questions are completed throughout the survey. The response rates to individual questions sometimes vary. **Therefore, the results should continue to be used with caution.**

Please note that percentages have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. Please also note that where the number of deaf children for any category is fewer than 5, we have shown '<5'.

Contents

Part 1: Deaf children in the UK	3
Part 2: Teachers of the Deaf	6
Part 3: Support provided	11
Part 4: Thematic questions: Early years support	12
Part 5: Thematic questions: Access arrangements.....	13
Part 6: Background and methodology	14

Part 1: Deaf children in the UK

Services were asked to give details of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area which they cover³.

According to the surveys, the adjusted total number of deaf children aged 0 to 19 across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is at least **51,142**. This figure is an apparent decrease from 53,000 in 2017. It should be noted that in England, two services did not respond to the survey in time for the analysis, and two services did not provide data on children living in the area, meaning that the England total is based on data from 128 services. Based on responses to previous surveys, we estimate that there are around 1,700 children in these areas. This suggests that the actual number of deaf children across the UK is over 52,800.

Table 1: Number of deaf children living in the geographical area, by nation and region

Nation	Region	Number of deaf children reported	Percentage as UK total
England		43,467	85%
	East England	4,471	9%
	East Midlands	3,536	7%
	London	7,309	14%
	North East	2,393	5%
	North West	4,768	9%
	South East	6,279	12%
	South West	3,951	8%
	West Midlands	5,397	11%
	Yorkshire and the Humber	5,363	10%
Northern Ireland		1,687	3%
Scotland		3,363	7%
Wales		2,625	5%
UK		51,142	100%

³ Services were asked: How many children with a permanent deafness live in the geographical area covered by your service? The answer should include: all children who have unilateral or bilateral sensori-neural or permanent conductive deafness, at all levels from mild to profound, using BSA/BATOD descriptors. Children with temporary deafness should **not** be included in your response to this question. All deaf children, regardless of whether they receive support from the service. Local authorities are subject to a legal duty to collect this information. Children who attend education provision outside of your area but who normally live in your area. Please note that for the purpose of this section of the survey we use the term 'children' to include children and young people up to the age of 19 years, 11 months (unless specified in the question).

Please also note that we use the term permanent deafness to include those children with a syndrome known to include permanent conductive deafness, microtia/atresia, middle ear malformation, or those who have had middle ear surgery such as mastoidectomy. It also includes those children with glue ear who are not expected to 'grow out' of the condition before the age of 10 years, such as those born with a cleft palate, Down's syndrome, cystic fibrosis, or primary ciliary dyskinesia.

Under temporary conductive deafness, we include those children with glue ear who may have been fitted with hearing aids as an alternative to grommet surgery but who are expected to 'grow out' of the condition before the age of 10 years.

Table 2: Number of deaf children living in the geographical area, by nation and region, over successive years

Nation Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
England	34,927	37,414	37,588	40,614	41,284	41,261	45,631	43,467
East England	2,572	3,291	3,916	3,598	3,840	4,349	4,430	4,471
East Midlands	2,334	2,436	2,374	3,737	3,394	3,287	3,765	3,536
London	5,271	5,642	6,110	6,247	6,518	7,285	7,358	7,309
North East	1,949	2,056	2,016	2,110	2,201	2,335	2,342	2,393
North West	5,037	5,346	4,656	5,900	5,780	5,238	5,945	4,768
South East	5,624	5,750	5,351	5,859	5,614	5,880	6,700	6,279
South West	3,348	3,318	3,318	3,158	3,578	3,164	3,823	3,951
West Midlands	4,290	4,751	5,027	4,883	5,294	5,549	5,711	5,397
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,502	4,824	4,820	5,122	5,065	4,174	5,557	5,363
Northern Ireland	1,239	1,249	1,481	1,574	1,332	1,497	1,553	1,687
Scotland	2,526	-	2,842	3,057	2,942	-	3,174	3,363
Wales	2,775	2,743	2,904	2,880	3,288	2,374	2,642	2,625
UK	41,467	41,406	44,815	48,125	48,846	48,075	53,000	51,142

The following table indicate there is a wide variations across Great Britain in the ‘size’ of specialist education services for deaf children and the number of deaf children living in in each area.

Table 3: Minimum, maximum and average number of deaf children living in each area by nation

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
England	86	1,526	342
Scotland	9	348	112
Wales	64	443	175

As there is just one service in Northern Ireland, they do not appear in the above table.

Number of deaf children on services’ caseloads

As well as the number of permanently deaf children who were known to live in the geographical area covered by the services, CRIDE also asked about deaf children on services’ caseloads.

Examples of support included direct teaching, visits to the family or school, liaison with the family, school and teachers, providing hearing aid checks, etc. Services were also able to include children supported by the service but who do not live in the same geographical area for that service.

Services were able to include children with temporary deafness in response to questions around caseload, where children with temporary deafness were on the caseload.

In previous surveys, we have asked for figures for children who receive some form of support **more than once a year**. Due to an error, the CRIDE 2018 survey did not give a definition of caseload across all the surveys. As a result of this error, comparisons with previous years should be made with particular caution.

Table 4: Number of deaf children on services' caseloads, by nation

Nation	Number of deaf children on services' caseloads (% of UK total)	... of whom have a temporary conductive hearing loss (% of UK total)
England	42,058 (83%)	5,098 (69%)
Northern Ireland	926 (2%)	24 (0%)
Scotland	3,328 (7%)	258 (3%)
Wales	4,258 (8%)	2,000 (27%)
UK	50,570 (100%)	7,380 (100%)

Table 5: Minimum, maximum and average number of deaf children on services' caseload in each nation

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
England	85	1,179	324
Scotland	9	348	111
Wales	40	1,229	284

Again, this table indicates there are wide variations across Great Britain in the 'size' of specialist education services for deaf children in terms of caseloads in each area.

Part 2: Teachers of the Deaf

There are at least 1,484.47 (fte) teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf across the UK. This includes Teachers of the Deaf working in a peripatetic role, resource provision, special school for deaf children and a special school/college not specifically for deaf children. It also includes Teachers of the Deaf from England, Northern Ireland and Wales who work flexibly between these roles. The Scotland survey did not ask about Teachers of the Deaf who work flexibly between settings.

If the vacant posts are added to the total number of teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf in employment, this would indicate there are at least 1,527.47 Teacher of the Deaf posts, of which 3% are vacant.

It should be noted that the following tables do not include Teachers of the Deaf working in cochlear implant centres, charities or any other settings.

Table 6: Number of Teacher of the Deaf posts (fte) by nation

Nation	Number of Teachers of the Deaf in employment	Number of vacant posts	Total Teacher of the Deaf posts
England	1,239.57	32.2	1,271.77
Northern Ireland	29.2	5	34.2
Scotland	154.88	4.8	159.68
Wales	61.82	1	62.82
UK	1,484.47	43	1,527.47

The table below provides a breakdown of the above figures by qualification status.

Table 7: Number of overall full time equivalent (fte) Teachers of the Deaf in employment, by qualification status

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Total
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	1,037.72 (84%)	28.4 (97%)	121.68 (70%)	56.42 (91%)	1,244.23 (83%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years (or 5 years in Scotland)	177.2 (14%)	0.8 (3%)	51 (30%)	5.4 (9%)	234.4 (16%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	24.65 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	24.65 (2%)
Total	1,239.57 (100%)	29.2 (100%)	172.68 (100%)	61.82 (100%)	1,503.28 (100%)

It should be noted that, when asked about qualifications, some services responded to the Scotland survey with non-fte figures (in other words, they provided figures for the number of people in employment, rather than fte figures which takes into account part-time roles). For the purpose of the above table, providing a breakdown by qualification status, we have shown the non-fte figures. As a result, the figures for Scotland do not match those provided earlier.

The following sections look in more detail at any differences between numbers and proportions of Teachers of the Deaf in different roles.

Table 8: Number of full time equivalent (fte) peripatetic or visiting Teachers of the Deaf in employment

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	593.66 (92%)	25.4 (89%)	59.68 (68%)	29.5 (88%)	708.24 (90%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	47.1 (7%)	0.8 (%)	27.5 (32%)	4 (12%)	79.4 (10%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	1.4 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1.4 (0%)
Total	642.16 (100%)	26.2 (100%)	87.18 (100%)	33.5 (100%)	789.04 (100%)

Table 9: Number of full time equivalent (fte) Teachers of the Deaf in employment in resource provisions

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	269.66 (79%)	3 (11%)	49.7 (72%)	25.32 (95%)	347.68 (79%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	66.3 (20%)	0 (0%)	19 (28%)	1.4 (5%)	86.7 (20%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	3.6 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3.6 (1%)
Total	339.56 (100%)	3 (100%)	68.7 (100%)	26.72 (100%)	437.98 (100%)

Table 10: Number of full time equivalent (fte) Teachers of the Deaf in employment in special schools for deaf children

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	138.9 (66%)	Data not collected	11.9 (73%)	N/a	150.8
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	55.4 (26%)	Data not collected	4.4 (27%)	N/a	59.8
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	17.4 (8%)	Data not collected	0 (0%)	N/a	17.4
Total	211.7 (100%)	Data not collected	16.3 (100%)	N/a	228

There are no special schools for deaf children in Wales. There is one special school for deaf children in Northern Ireland. However, we did not receive a response from this school to the separate survey that was issued to special schools for deaf children.

Table 11: Number of full time equivalent (fte) Teachers of the Deaf in employment in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	19.4 (71%)	0 (0%)	0.4 (80%)	1 (100%)	20.8 (72%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	6.4 (23%)	0 (0%)	0.1 (20%)	0 (0%)	6.5 (23%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	1.5 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1.5 (5%)
Total	27.3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0.5 (100%)	1 (100%)	28.8 (100%)

Table 12: Number of full time equivalent (fte) Teachers of the Deaf in employment working flexibly between the peripatetic service, resource provisions and/or a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	16.1 (85%)	0 (0%)	Data not collected	0.6 (100%)	16.7 (86%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	Data not collected	0 (0%)	2 (10%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	0.75 (4%)	0 (0%)	Data not collected	0 (0%)	0.75 (4%)
Total	18.85 (100%)	0 (0%)	Data not collected	0.6 (100%)	19.45 (100%)

The following section looks in detail at changes in numbers of Teachers of the Deaf over time. Table 13 looks at changes in the number of qualified Teachers of the Deaf. It excludes those working as a Teacher of the Deaf who are currently in training or do not intend to gain the qualification.

It should be noted that figures for England for 2018 include Teachers of the Deaf in special schools for deaf children. As these weren't included in previous years in the survey for England, a like-for-like comparison figure that excludes Teachers of the Deaf in special schools in England is also shown.

It should also be noted that the asterisked figure in 2017 for Scotland is based on responses from 26 services, as 6 responses were excluded from analysis in that year. In addition, the figure for 2018 for Scotland includes non-fte figures. This should be taken into account when looking at percentage changes from year to year as it is likely to have skewed the figures in a more positive direction.

Table 13: Changes in numbers of Teachers of the Deaf (fte) with the mandatory qualification in employment

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
England	1,062.1	1,063.7	1,031.9	999.2	995.75	932.38	913.75	1,037.72 (or 898.82 if excluding special schools for deaf children)
Northern Ireland	34.9	29.6	30	28.6	30.6	32.6	29.3	28.4
Scotland	165.3	Data not collected	140.6	138.7	129.5	Data not collected	101.15*	121.68**
Wales	71.95	91.75	66.5	67.0	69.86	65.45	57.63	56.42
UK	1,333.95	1,185.05	1,269	1,233.5	1,225.71	1,030.43	1,101.83	1,244.23 (or 1,105.32 if excluding special schools for deaf children in England)

Table 14: Percentage change in numbers of Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification in employment

	Percentage change over past 8 years (between 2010/11 and 2017/18)	Percentage change over past year (between 2016/17 and 2017/18)
England (including special schools for deaf children)	-2%	14%
England (excluding special schools for deaf children)	-15%	-2%
Northern Ireland	-19%	-3%
Scotland	-26%	20%
Wales	-22%	-3%
UK (including special schools for deaf children)	-7%	13%
UK (excluding special schools for deaf children in England)	-17%	0%

The following table looks at changes in the number of teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf. This includes those who are working in the role as a Teacher of the Deaf but who are not yet qualified. It excludes any vacant posts.

Table 15: Changes in number of teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
England	1,162.5	1,136.4	1,117.5	1,079.9	1,126.35	1,059.28	1,050.75	1,239.57 (or 1,027.87 if excluding special schools for deaf children)
Northern Ireland	37.3	34.2	35	32.6	34.4	33.4	30.1	29.2
Scotland	218.1	Data not collected	208.5	204.7	198	Data not collected	166.5*	154.88*
Wales	75.95	100.55	71.5	70.2	74.26	69.25	60.73	61.82
UK	1,493.85	1,271.15	1,432.5	1,387.4	1,433.01	1,161.93	1,310.38	1,485.47 (or 1,274.77 if excluding special schools for deaf children in England)

The figures for Scotland, shown in asterisk, are fte figures. As a result, they will not match figures shown elsewhere in this report.

Table 16: Percentage change in number of teachers working as Teachers of the Deaf

	Percentage change over past 8 years (between 2010/11 and 2017/18)	Percentage change over past year (between 2016/17 and 2017/18)
England (including special schools for deaf children)	7%	18%
England (excluding special schools for deaf children)	-12%	-2%
Northern Ireland	-22%	-3%
Scotland	-29%	-7%
Wales	-19%	2%
UK (including special schools for deaf children)	-1%	13%
UK (excluding special schools for deaf children in England)	-15%	-3%

Part 3: Support provided

Table 17: Where services are based

	England	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Based in the local authority	107 (82%)	22 (76%)	14 (93%)	143 (83%)
Based in a school with a resource provision	8 (6%)	2 (7%)	0 (0%)	10 (6%)
Based in a special school for deaf children	6 (5%)	3 (10%)	0 (0%)	9 (5%)
Provided by another body or organisation	8 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (5%)
Other	1 (1%)	2 (7%)	1 (7%)	3 (2%)
Total	130 (100%)	29 (100%)	15 (100%)	173 (100%)

In Northern Ireland, there is just one service based in the nation-wide Education Authority.

Table 18: Number of resource provisions in 2018

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Within a primary school	133.5 (56%)	2 (67%)	9 (41%)	13 (52%)	157.5 (54%)
Within a secondary school	106.5 (44%)	1 (33%)	13 (59%)	12 (48%)	132.5 (46%)
Total	240 (100%)	3 (100%)	22 (100%)	25 (100%)	290 (100%)

In England, one resource provision covers both primary and secondary-aged children. In the table above, this is shown as 0.5 in each primary and secondary.

In the previous year, services reported that there were 294 resource provisions.

Part 4: Thematic questions: Early years support

In 2018, services were asked about early years support provided. Services were asked if parents of deaf children aged 0-4 were provided with radio aids/assistive listening devices for use within the home.

Table 19: Number of services providing radio aids to parents of deaf children aged 0-4 in the home, by nation

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Yes	81 (62%)	1 (100%)	10 (33%)	6 (40%)	98 (56%)
No	49 (38%)	0 (0%)	20 (67%)	9 (60%)	78 (44%)
Total	130 (100%)	1 (100%)	30 (100%)	15 (100%)	176 (100%)

Services were also asked if parents of deaf children aged 0-4 were provided with radio aids/assistive listening devices for use within early years settings.

Table 20: Number of services providing radio aids provided to parents of deaf children aged 0-4 to use within early year settings

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Yes	109 (84%)	1 (100%)	23 (77%)	10 (67%)	143 (81%)
No	21 (16%)	0 (0%)	7 (23%)	5 (33%)	33 (19%)
Total	130 (100%)	1 (100%)	30 (100%)	15 (100%)	176 (100%)

It should be noted that the previous two tables tell us how many services make radio aids available to parents of deaf children. The CRIDE surveys did not ask about the number of pre-school deaf children who benefit from these devices. The actual number may vary from area to area.

Part 5: Thematic questions: Access arrangements

We asked services how many deaf students would be undertaking public examinations in summer 2018 and then for how many of these students had access arrangements (related to their hearing loss) been requested or arranged. In England and Wales, service were asked about students in year 11, in Northern Ireland year 12 and in Scotland S4.

Table 21: Number of students undertaking public exams and access arrangements requested

	Number of students undertaking public exams	Number of students for whom access arrangement had been requested
England	2,005	553
Northern Ireland	28	22
Scotland	173	60
Wales	110	39
Total	2,316	674

We also asked services to provide more information about the access arrangements (related to a young person's hearing loss) that were requested or arranged. The Scotland survey included some options that were not available in the other surveys. In England, Northern Ireland and Wales, it is possible that responses given for 'Other' would have matched one of the supplementary options for Scotland. In Scotland, there is also a potential overlap between the BSL/ISL interpreter and Exam in BSL option which may have resulted in some double-counting.

Although not all services were able to provide a response to this question, it is encouraging to see that the number of cases where requested access arrangements were rejected or not put in place is relatively low.

Table 22: Access arrangements

	Number of services where access arrangement had been requested	Number of students for whom access arrangement had been requested	Number of students for whom any requested access arrangements were rejected or not put in place
Extra time	111	477	<5
Oral Language Modifier	23	24	5
BSL/ISL interpreter	26	41	0
Live speaker	62	225	0
Reader	52	142	<5
Breaks (Scotland only)	5	11	0
Electric note taker (Scotland only)	0	0	0
Exam in BSL (Scotland only)	2	9	0
Electronic papers (Scotland only)	1	<5	0
Separate room (Scotland only)	14	48	0
Direct input to audio (Scotland only)	9	<5	0
Other	2	141	0

Part 6: Background and methodology

CRIDE is a consortium bringing together a range of organisations and individuals with a common interest in using research to improve the educational outcomes achieved by deaf children. At the time the survey was sent out, representatives included: the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD), City, University of London, the Ear Foundation, the Ewing Foundation, the National Deaf Children's Society, the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NatSIP), the former head of Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, Mary Hare School, the specialist education service for deaf children in Kent and Norfolk, University of Edinburgh, University of Leeds and UCL.

The surveys for England, Northern Ireland and Wales were designed and created by members of CRIDE. The Scotland survey was modified and further developed by a separate CRIDE Scotland reference group.

A separate short survey was issued to special schools for deaf children in England and Northern Ireland. This received responses from 13 schools. The main Scotland survey already included questions on Teachers of the Deaf in special schools for deaf children. There are no special schools for deaf children in Wales.

The CRIDE survey alternates between a full and a shorter survey from year to year. In 2018, a shorter survey with a number of thematic questions was issued.

In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales a 100% response rate to the survey was received. In England, a 100% response rate was effectively achieved, recognising that the survey is not sent to the City of London and Isles of Scilly local authorities where we understand the number of deaf children is very low.

Analysis of the results using Excel and drafting of this report was largely completed by the National Deaf Children's Society, with guidance and approval from members of CRIDE.

CRIDE 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 cride@ndcs.org.uk or cride.scotland@ndcs.org.uk.