# Freedom of Information (FOI) questions on local authority education provision for children and young people with vision impairment: 2018

## Section 1: Organisation and funding of your local authority Education Vision Impairment (VI) Advisory service

**1a. How is provision for children and young people with vision impairment funded?** (Choose one only)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Centrally funded by the LA for specialist support for all pupils with VI** | **x** |
|  | **Partially delegated to individual schools who purchase specialist support from the LA under 'traded services' arrangement** |  |
|  | **Fully delegated to individual schools who purchase specialist support from the LA under 'traded services' arrangement** |  |
|  | **Other (please give details):** |  |

**If any aspect of service is traded please answer Q1b below.**

**1b. Please provide details of traded services:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Service traded** | **Who the service is traded to**  | **Total budget traded**  |
| **Training/Inset** | **All settings** | **Less than £3000pa** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

## Section 2: Structuring of services

**Q2. In the past twelve months have any changes been made to the way that provision for children and young people with vision impairment is funded and/or organised? (Choose one only)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** |  |
|  | **No** | **x** |

**Q2b. If 'yes', please give details of changes:**

**Q2c. Were these changes consulted on with parents and VI organisations? (Choose one answer) N/A**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes, parents only** |  |
|  | **Yes, VI organisations only** |  |
|  | **Yes, both parents and VI organisations** |  |
|  | **No, parents and VI organisations were not consulted** |  |

**Q2d. If ‘no’, or yes to only one group, what was the reason for this decision?**

**N/A**

#### Q3. Please provide details of the overall VI service budget (including staff, equipment and training) for:

**i. 2017/18:**  **£603,800**

**ii 2016/17: £603,800**

**Q4. What percentage of the High Needs Funding budget is spent on the overall VI service budget?**

**12.24%**

### Section 3: Number of children and young people (CYP) on the VI service caseload

**Q5. Please provide the number of children and young people with vision impairment that the local authority has on their records for the following categories:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ages**  | **Total** | **Statement or EHCP**  | **SEN Support** | **Not yet assessed/****categorised**  | **Other** |
| **0 - 4:** | **38** | **8** | **24** | **6** |  |
| **5 - 16:** | **219** | **114** | **102** | **3** |  |
| **17 - 19:** | **24** | **23** | **0** | **1** |  |
| **20 - 25:** | **14** | **14** | **0** | **0** |  |

**Q5b. If ‘other’, please explain:**

**Q6. What is the ‘criteria’ or how is it determined which children and young people with vision impairment receive an EHCP?** (Choose all that apply)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **They must meet a specified level of severity/visual acuity** |  |
|  | **They must have additional SEND** |  |
|  | **They must be failing to make the expected level of progress** | **\*** |
|  | **They are expected to attend a special school** |  |
|  | **Other – please specify:****CYP who need a high level of support due to their acuity, but are making expected progress, can also be granted an EHCP. Case by case application.** | **\*** |

### Q7a. How many children or young people with vision impairment have had their support reduced in the last 12 months?

**270**

### Q7b. How many of these children had the decision taken after reviewing their EHC plan?

**None**

**Q7c. Please give reasons why support has been reduced:**

**Increase in caseload and staffing ratios**

**Inability to meet NatSIP Criteria visiting levels**

**Despite these reductions we remain confident we provide a high quality service to meet the needs of these children and young people**

### Q8. What is the total number of children and young people who use (or in the case of EYFS children, are expected to use) braille as their sole or main literacy medium?

**8**

### Section 4: VI service staffing

**Q9. Please provide details of the structure of the team/staff supporting children and young people with vision impairment including job title, qualification and full time equivalent. This includes** **teachers employed directly by the VI service (peripatetic/advisory and school-based teachers and VI service manager NOT including teaching assistants):**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Job Title** | **Qualification** | **Number of staff** | **Full time equivalent** | **Permanent / temporary contract** |
| **Team Leader** | **QTVI** | **1** | **1.0** | **Permanent** |
| **Specialist Teacher** | **QTVI** | **5** | **4.95** | **Permanent** |
| **QTMSI** | **1** | **1.0** | **Permanent** |
| **Keyboard tutor** |  | **1** | **0.5** | **Permanent** |
| **Resource Technicians** |  | **3** | **2.5** | **Permanent** |
| **Hab and Mobility Officer** | **Graduate Diploma in Habilitation****and Disabilities of Sight****(Children and Young People)** | **1** | **1.0** | **Permanent** |

**Q10. Please provide information regarding the case load of each QTVI:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Full time equivalent**  | **Number on active case load**  | **Number on total case load** | **Average waiting time to be seen for initial assessment**  |
| **QTVI 1** | **1.0** | **57** | **57** | **No available data.** **It can range from less than a week to several months depending upon a range of criteria e.g.:****Complexity of need, CYP absences, Holiday periods.****This is therefore a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by the Council.** |
| **QTVI 2** | **1.0** | **39** | **41** |
| **QTVI 3** | **1.0** | **50** | **53** |
| **QTVI 4** | **1.0** | **15** | **17** |
| **QTVI 5** | **1.0** | **35** | **36** |
| **QTVI 6** | **0.95** | **56** | **57** |
| **QTVI 7** | **1.0** | **34** | **34** |

**Q11a. Please give the numbers of teaching assistants (TAs) in your LA who are providing support to pupils with vision impairment (this includes service and school-based staff):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Employment arrangements** | **Number of TAs** |
| **Employed and recruited directly by VI service – centrally based/peripatetic** | **1.5 temporary posts**  |
| **Employed and recruited directly by VI service – school based** |  |
| **Employed and recruited directly by schools and supported by VI service** | **166** |
| **Employed and recruited directly by schools with no involvement from VI service** |  |
| **Other arrangement (please give details):** |  |

**Q11b. What type of training is routinely provided to non-specialist education staff who are supporting a VI pupil(s) within your LA?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Awareness raising** | **INSET provided by VI service** | **External, non-accredited training** | **External, accredited training** | **Other type of training (please give details)\*** |
| **Mainstream teachers** | **\*** | **\*** |  |  |  |
| **Special (non-VI) school teachers** | **\*** | **\*** |  |  |  |
| **Early years/nursery staff** | **\*** | **\*** |  |  |  |
| **TAs providing direct support to VI pupil(s), who are employed by the school** | **\*** | **\*** |  |  |  |
| **TAs employed by the VI service** | **\*** | **\*** |  |  |  |

**\*Details of other types of training provided:**

### Medical practitioners and child minders

## Section 5: Habilitation support

**Q12a. Does the local authority offer Habilitation support for children and young people?** **By habilitation we mean support and training in orientation, mobility and independent living skills (choose one only):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **\*** |
|  | **No** |  |
|  | **I don’t know** |  |

**Q12b. If ‘No’ please explain why, and what support is put in place to meet habilitation needs?**

**N/A**

**Q13. Who in your LA provides mobility and habilitation skills training to children and young people with VI?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **If yes, please give number as full time equivalent:** |
|  | **Qualified habilitation officer(s) employed centrally by the VI service** |  |
|  | **Qualified mobility/habilitation officer(s) employed centrally by the VI service** | **\*** |
|  | **Qualified habilitation officer(s)** **externally commissioned from another organisation** |  |
|  | **Qualified habilitation officer(s****) bought in from another team within the LA (e.g. social care)** |  |
|  | **Qualified mobility/rehabilitation officer(s) bought in from another team within the LA (e.g. social care)** |  |

**Q13b. How many pupils are currently receiving mobility/habilitation training or waiting to be assessed?**

1. **Number of pupils currently on active caseload:**

**24**

1. **Number of pupils waiting assessment:**

**-**

### Section 6: Redress

**Q14a. How many complaints have been made to the local authority by parents of VI children over support provided for their child between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2018?**

**One**

**Q14b. How many of these have progressed to tribunal?**

### One

### Section 7: Registers

### Q15. Who in the LA holds the vision impairment register for children and young people who are blind or partially sighted? (Choose one only):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **a)** | **Social care sensory team** |  |
| **b)** | **Social care children’s team** |  |
| **c)** | **Local society for blind people/sight loss society** | **\*** |
| **d)** | **Other (please give details)** |  |

**END**