







## PART 1: Deaf children in Wales

How many deaf children are there?

Services were asked to give details of deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service<sup>4</sup>

When giving figures for numbers of deaf children living in the area we first asked for an overall figure and then asked for

Table 2: Number of deaf children reported, over successive years

	Number of children reported
CRIDE 2023 (adjusted total)	2,260

Since 2021 the proportion of deaf children in different age categories has changed as follows

- early years/preschool age increased by two percentage points
- primary-aged decreased by two percentage points
- secondary aged no change
- post-16 category increased by one percentage point.

By way of comparison, we looked at figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on population estimates by age to see if there were any differences in the proportion of children in different age groups. It should be noted that in the CRIDE survey, we did not ask the specific age of children but whether they

the incidence of deafness is known to vary by age, reflecting the fact that many deaf children acquire deafness as they grow up. The figures below are therefore not directly comparable.

Table 4: Proportion of children and young people by age

Category	ONS (mid-2021 data)	CRIDE 2023
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Table 6: Number of children, living in the area, by educational setting

Type of educational provision		Number of deaf children	Percentage of total (where known)
In local authority	Supported only at home pre-school children	77	3%
	Early years setting pre-school children	106	5%

Table 7: Breakdown of types of educational provision

Type of educational provision (regardless of whether in or out of local authority)	Number of deaf children	Percentage of total	Percentage of total school-aged children (i.e. excluding pre-school children and young people post-16)
Supported only at home pre-school children	77	3%	
Early years setting pre-school children	106*	5%	
Supported at home of school age and home educated	14	1%	1%
Mainstream provision (including state funded and independent schools)	1,620*	72%	81%



Comparing with data from the 2021 survey when this question was last asked the proportions of children and young people using

spoken English has decreased from 75% to 70%

spoken Welsh increase from 9% to 18%

BSL increase from 2% to 3%

spoken English together with signed support increase from 6% to 7%

spoken Welsh together with signed support has remained at <5 or 0%

other combination- decrease from 8% to 4%.

Table 10: Number of deaf children on caseloads reported, over successive years

Year	Number of children on caseload	Definition of caseload	Number of services
2023	3,224	Some form of support at least once a year	14 <sup>19</sup>
2022	3,178	Some form of support at least once a year	15
2021	3,430	Some form of support at least once a year	15
2020	1,639 <sup>20</sup>	Some form of support more than once a year	11
2019	3,265	Some form of support more than once a year	14
2018	4,258	Some form of support more than once a year	15
2017	3,968	Some form of support more than once a year	15
2016	3,722	Some form of support at least once a year	15

The 2023 CRIDE survey reports there are 2,260 deaf children in Wales.<sup>25</sup> However, the Welsh  
<sup>26</sup> figures indicate there are 1,788 pupils<sup>27</sup> with a hearing impairment, and 276  
pupils with a multisensory impairment. It should be noted that Welsh government data no longer  
indicates whether hearing impairment is the primary or secondary need.

We recognise that School Census figures mostly cover pupils aged 5 to 15 in primary, middle or secondary





## Changes in numbers of TODs

The following table looks at changes in the number of qualified TODs in employment and posts over successive years.

As set out earlier, when making year on year comparisons, anomalies can sometimes appear in the responses. We make every effort to investigate anomalies that appear particularly strange, however, services and schools do not always respond to such queries.

*Table 13: Changes in numbers of TODs*

the total of 24.5 fte TODs in resource provisions has decreased to 25.0 in 2022. This amounts to a 5% decrease since 2011, when there were 34 TODs in post in resource provisions. We have seen a 28% decline

there were 2 fte TODs with the mandatory qualification reported as working mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people. This is an increase from 2022 when there was 1 fte TOD reported as working in this way

there were 2 fte TODs with the mandatory qualification reported as working flexibly as a peripatetic TOD, in a resource provision and/or in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people. In 2022, no TODs were reported as working in this way.

For the 12 services we were able to compare figures for, we found that 33% of services had seen an increase in the number of TODs in employment between 2022 and 2023, 58% of services had seen no change while 8% of services had seen a decrease

In terms of any difficulties in recruiting TODs or supply cover over the past 12 months:

one service (7%) reported difficulties in recruiting for a permanent post  
two (14%) reported no difficulties  
11 services (79%) stated that this question was not applicable to them.

two services (14%) reported difficulties in recruiting for supply cover  
no services reported no difficulties  
12 services (86%) stated that this question was not applicable to them.

Combining the figures, three services (2%) reported difficulties in recruiting to either permanent or supply posts. Comments from services around this included:

a lack of suitably experienced teachers applying for a part time peripatetic role  
a service unable to secure supply cover from a qualified teacher, service rearranged the weekly timetable to ensure cover  
a service employing a teacher who was starting the second year of the mandatory TOD qualification.

Additional qualifications held by TODs

We found that:

0.8 fte TODs, working in a peripatetic role, held an additional postgraduate specialist qualification in early years support for deaf children. This amounts to 1% of all TODs in employment  
2 fte TODs, working in a peripatetic role, held an additional specialist qualification as an educational audiologist. This amounts to 3% of all TODs in employment  
22.6 fte TODs held a level 3 qualification (or equivalent) or above in British Sign Language. This amounts to 35% of all TODs in employment. Of these 22.6 fte TODs, 56% worked in a peripatetic role, 40% worked in resource provisions and 4% worked flexibly between different roles/settings

Age profile of peripatetic TODs

Services were asked about the age profile of TODs. This is in light of ongoing concerns that the number of newly recruited TODs is significantly lower than the number of TODs retiring from the profession.

The following table indicates that 36% of peripatetic TODs are over the age of 50 and hence likely to retire in the next 10 to 15 years. In 2021, this figure stood at 34%.

Table 15: Age profile of peripatetic TODs

	Number of peripatetic teachers (fte)	Percentage of total
Aged 49 or under	23.6	64%
Aged between 50 and 59	11.2	31%
Aged between 60 and 64	1.8	5%
Aged 65 or over	0	0%
Total	36.6 <sup>1</sup>	

#### Peripatetic TOD caseloads

This section looks at the theoretical or notional caseloads of each visiting (peripatetic) TOD<sup>2</sup> by looking at the number of deaf children living in an area who are not already in specialist provision (regardless of whether they are receiving support or not). There is a range of views on both the usefulness of this and how best to calculate this ratio. Points to consider include:

Other specialist staff

We found that there were 43.5 fte specialist support staff other than TOD employed by services supporting deaf children. There was 1 fte vacant post reported. This means there were 44.5 specialist support staff posts, of which 2% were vacant.

Table 16: Number of specialist support staff, by role

	Number working in this role		Vacant posts	Total
	Number of staff (full time equivalent)	Number of services with staff in relevant category	Number of staff (full time equivalent)	

Table 17: BSL qualifications of teaching assistants etc. and communication support workers etc.

	Number of other specialist staff directly employed by the service (in fte)	Percentage
No formal qualification in BSL and not first language BSL user	6.5	16%
Level 1 BSL or equivalent	15.7	38%
Level 2 BSL or equivalent	9.6	23%
Level 3 BSL or equivalent	7.5	18%
Level 4 BSL or equivalent	0.5	1%
Level 6 BSL or equivalent	1	2%
First language BSL user	1	2%

## PART 3: Post-16 support

Young people who have left school

12 services reported that 118 deaf young people had left school at the end of the 2021/22 academic year. We believe this figure to be lower than the number we would expect to be leaving school. For example, we saw earlier that there are at least 183 secondary aged deaf children, suggesting there are approximately around 186 in each year. We also found (as reported by 12 services) that 59 young people<sup>34</sup> had a transition plan informed by a TPOD (50% of the reported deaf young people who had left school).

Careers advice

We asked if peripatetic TPODs in services provided any of the support below in relation to careers advice and moving into employment.

Table 18: Support on careers advice and moving into employment

Category	Yes (number and percentage of services)	No (number and percentage of services)	Not sure (number and percentage of services)	Total
Engaging with careers advisors in schools on careers advice to deaf young people	11 (92%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	12 <sup>35</sup> (100%)
Engaging with careers advisors in colleges on careers advice to deaf young people	7 (54%)	5 (38%)	1 (8%)	13 <sup>36</sup> (100%)
Provision of advice on the accessibility of work placements being undertaken by deaf young people	6 (50%)	4 (33%)	2 (17%)	12 <sup>37</sup> (100%)
Provision of information to deaf young people about the support available through the Access to Work scheme for employment support	10 (77%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)	13 <sup>38</sup> (100%)
Provision of information to deaf young people about their rights under the Equality Act to reasonable adjustments in the workplace	10 (77%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)	13 <sup>39</sup> (100%)

Comparing with figures from the 2022 report there has been an increase in the proportions of services:

- engaging with careers advisors in schools (87% to 92%)
- engaging with careers advisors in colleges (47% to 54%)
- providing information on Access to Work (53% to 77%)
- providing information on the Equality Act and reasonable adjustments (60% to 77%).

There has been a decrease in the proportion of services providing information on the accessibility of work placements (53% to 50%).



Table 20: Number of resource provisions over time

Year <sup>40</sup>	Number of resource provisions
2023	19
2022	19
2021	20
2019	24
2018	25
2017	25
2016	24

We also looked at the number of resource provisions against the number of deaf children.<sup>41</sup> This is

None of the five services that collect this data





## Annex: Information by local authority

The table that follows sets out some individual data from services. Local authorities were asked to provide figures as of 31 January 2020.

Figures for TODs include TODs with the mandatory qualification (MQ) and TODs in training for the MQ or intending to train within three years.

Figures for the average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision are intended to show the spread of provisions across each area. It is calculated by dividing the number of children living in the area covered by a service and number of resource provisions in the area. Where there is no resource provision in the area, this is indicated by a ratio of the population in the area to 0. Care should be used in interpreting these figures. In some cases, the ratio may be influenced by the presence of special schools in the area or other resource provisions. It should be noted that this is not a measure of the number of places available in or individual deaf children enrolled at each resource provision; figures for places children enrolled will vary from provision to provision.

In some cases, the number of children on the caseload with primary hearing loss is less than five. Where this happens, we have replaced the figure with a note instead of the caseload figure.

Table 24: Data by local authority

Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	Number of children with permanent or
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