



Consortium for Research in Deaf Education

## 2025 report for England

### Education provision for deaf children in England in 2024/25

#### Introduction

In 2025, we carried out the 15<sup>th</sup> Consortium for Research in Deaf Education (CRIDE) annual survey on educational staffing and service provision for deaf children.<sup>1</sup> This report sets out the results of the survey for England and is intended for heads of services, policy makers in local and central government and anyone with an interest in deaf education.

The survey alternates from year to year between a standard survey and a survey with a mix of core and thematic questions. The 2025 survey was the standard version covering the 2024/25 academic year.<sup>2</sup>

A number of changes were made to the standard survey in 2025 to streamline and reduce the number of questions<sup>3</sup>.

The analysis in this report is based on responses from 132 services<sup>4</sup> in England, covering 150 out of 153 authority areas and giving an effective response rate of 99%. Responses from a separate survey of special schools for deaf children are also included in parts of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this section of the survey, unless otherwise stated, we use the term 'deaf children' to include children and young people under the age of 20 with sensori-neural or permanent conductive deafness.

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

<sup>3</sup> For example, questions about deaf children with cochlear implants, bone conduction devices, who use English as an additional spoken language at home, who are new to the country, and post-16 support have been removed. A reference document that summarises this data from previous years has been produced and is available via the links shown in the above footnote.

<sup>4</sup> One service, covering one local authority area did not provide a complete response to the survey. Two local authorities - the City of London and the Isles of Scilly - were not contacted on the understanding that they do not have any deaf children in their areas.

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## Interpreting the results

Services were asked to give figures for the position as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

In the survey, we acknowledge that services and children do not always fit into the boxes or options provided. Services were able to leave comments or clarify where needed throughout the survey. This report notes particular issues that emerged in some areas.

As we see later, it is clear that some services experience 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 may sometimes vary and anomalies occasionally appear. We make every effort to investigate any inconsistencies that appear particularly strange. However, services do not always respond to such queries. **Therefore, the results should continue to be used with caution.** Caution is also needed due to differences in response rates to individual questions and potential mistakes in data provision between surveys.

Please note that percentages in this report have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

## Summary of key findings

### *Deaf children in England*

- There were 45,902 deaf children reported by 132 services.
- 74% of services indicated there are known issues or gaps in their data on numbers of deaf children.

### *Teachers of Deaf Children and other specialist staff*

- There were at least 1,263 fte Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (TOD) posts reported by services, of which at least 41 fte (3%) were vacant.
- Of the 1,222 fte working as TODs, 79% held the mandatory qualification, whilst 12% were in training, 7% were qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training, and 2% were occupied by people not qualified as teachers.<sup>5</sup>
- There were at least 629 fte specialist support staff posts (other than TODs) reported as directly employed by services, of which at least 43 fte (7%) were vacant posts.<sup>6</sup>

### *Resource provisions*

- There were a reported 215 resource provisions. This is a change from 220 reported in 2024. However, one service did not provide information on the number of resource provisions in their area.<sup>7</sup> Looking at the spread of resource provisions across England, on average, there is one resource provision for every 211 deaf children.

### *Support following identification of deafness*

- Services reported they had received 8,271 referrals during the 2024 calendar year, an increase from 7,481 in the calendar year of 2023.
- 13% of referrals to services came from the newborn hearing screening programme.
- 24% of referrals to services came from outside the newborn hearing screening programme and before a child had started statutory education.
- 63% of referrals to services came from outside the newborn hearing screening programme and after a child had started statutory education.

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<sup>5</sup> The category of People not qualified as Teachers was only asked about in the separate survey for schools for deaf children and young people.

<sup>6</sup> Additionally, information on other specialist support staff not included in the roles specified in the survey question was gathered in a separate question. There were 44.11 other specialist support staff in other roles, employed directly by services.

<sup>7</sup> In the 2024 survey, this service reported two resource provisions.

## PART 1: Deaf children in England

### How many deaf children are there?

Services were asked to give details of deaf children living in the geographical area covered by their service.<sup>8</sup>

When giving figures for numbers of deaf children living in the area, we first asked for an overall figure and then asked for breakdowns by level of deafness, age, and educational setting. We found that some services did not always provide this data consistently; occasionally services gave broken-down figures where the sum generated a different total from that given elsewhere in the survey.

Coming up with a clear answer to the question of how many deaf children there are is therefore not straightforward. For this report, we have taken the approach of using the highest figure from either the overall total, given totals for questions, or the totals generated through the sum of the broken-down figures. We do this because we want to ensure we've captured as many deaf children as possible. Where we have done this, we refer to the "adjusted total".

Based on the responses from 132 services<sup>9</sup>, there were 45,902 deaf children.<sup>10</sup> This figure of 45,902 is a reported decrease of 1,031 (2%) from 46,933 in 2024.<sup>11</sup> However, it is still higher than the figures generated between 2021 and 2023.

It should be noted that one service did not provide a complete response to the survey this year. In some areas there were large changes in the figures provided compared with last year. Some services provided context to changes in reported data in answers to questions on known issues or gaps, but some services did not.

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<sup>8</sup> Services were asked to include: All children under the age of 20 who have a unilateral or bilateral sensori-neural or permanent conductive deafness, at all levels from mild to profound, using BSA/BATOD descriptors; All deaf children, regardless of whether they receive support from the service; Children who attend education provision outside of the area but who normally live in the area. For the purpose of this section of the survey we use the term 'children' to include children and young people under the age of 20. 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 12 years (such as those born with a cleft palate, Down's syndrome, cystic fibrosis, or primary ciliary dyskinesia). Children with temporary deafness should not be included in responses to this question. 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 12 years.

<sup>9</sup> One service did not provide a complete response to the survey. The partial information that was submitted via the online survey was not included in the analysis.

<sup>10</sup> One service did not provide an overall figure for children with permanent deafness living in the area, but did provide broken down information for the other questions about this group of children and young people. The totals provided for those questions has been used as an overall figure as a 'best estimate'

<sup>11</sup> If the number of children and young people reported in 2024 by the service that didn't provide a complete survey response in 2025 is removed from the 2024 total, there is still a reported decrease (between the 2025 total and the amended 2024 total) of 2%.

Therefore, earlier caveats about interpreting the results should be borne in mind.<sup>12</sup>

Unadjusted figures are provided in the table that follows.

*Table 1: Figures generated when calculating the number of deaf children*

	<b>Total generated</b>
Adjusted total	45,902
Total when asked how many children overall	45,435
Total when asked about number of children, broken down by age group	44,986 <sup>13</sup>
Total when asked about number of children, broken down by level of deafness (including 'Level of deafness not known')	44,195 <sup>14</sup>
Total when asked about number of children, broken down by educational setting	45,201 <sup>15</sup>

The smallest service reported 75 deaf children living within their boundaries. The largest reported 1,805 deaf children. The average number of deaf children living in each service area was 348.

The following table compares the total number of deaf children living in England with figures from previous years. As set out in the introduction, comparisons with earlier reports should be made with caution due to the known issues and gaps reported by services, differences in the quality of the responses, and response rates between the surveys.

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<sup>12</sup> As well as changes in 'known issues and gaps' reported by services from year to year (see later), some services reported other issues. For example, not having figures for children in resource provisions, schools for deaf children or in out of authority education providers, changes in service offer/support provided, changes in service databases, changes in the person/people completing the survey, and potential errors in data provided previously. Occasionally services were able to give an overall figure for children living in the area but were only able to provide broken-down information about some of the children, or were only able to provide broken down information based on a wider group of children (e.g. including those with temporary conductive deafness). A service in one area was not able to provide up to date information on secondary-aged children and older, so included some 2024 data.

<sup>13</sup> This was the sum of the broken-down figures, the sum of totals provided by services was 44,711.

<sup>14</sup> This was the sum of the broken-down figures, the sum of the totals provided by services was 44,846.

<sup>15</sup> This was the sum of the broken-down figures, the sum of totals provided by services was 45,277.

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

	Number of children reported
CRIDE 2025 (adjusted total)	45,902
CRIDE 2024	46,933
CRIDE 2023 (adjusted total)	45,671
CRIDE 2022 (adjusted total)	45,680
CRIDE 2021 (adjusted total)	45,060
CRIDE 2020*	37,340
CRIDE 2019 (adjusted total)	46,404
CRIDE 2018	43,467
CRIDE 2017 (adjusted total)	45,631
CRIDE 2016	41,261
CRIDE 2015 (adjusted total)	41,377
CRIDE 2014	40,614
CRIDE 2013 (adjusted total)	37,948
CRIDE 2012 (adjusted total)	37,414
CRIDE 2011 (adjusted total)	34,927

\*In 2020, there were 103 responses to this question.

The following table looks in more detail at the number of deaf children in different regions of England, and how this has changed since 2023. It should be noted that changes in response rates by some local authorities can sometimes have a significant impact on regional figures.

By way of comparison, we also looked at figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) statistics on population estimates by region for all children and young people aged 0-19 in England.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales>

Table 3: Number of deaf children in England, by region

	CRIDE			ONS (mid-2024 data)
Region	Number of deaf children in 2023 – adjusted totals (% of adjusted total)	Number of deaf children in 2024 – totals (% of total) <sup>17</sup>	Number of deaf children in 2025 – adjusted totals (% of adjusted total)	Percentage of all children aged 0-19 in England in each region
East England	4,857 (11%)	4,731 (10%)	4,750 (10%)	11%
East Midlands	3,533 (8%)	3,514 (7%)	3,402 (7%)	9%
London	7,654 (17%)	7,524 (16%)	7,788 (17%)	16%
North East	2,275 (5%)	2,252 (5%)	2,430 (5%)	5%
North West	6,308 (14%)	6,473 (14%)	6,321 (14%)	13%
South East	5,587 (12%)	7,114 (15%)	5,975 (13%)	17%
South West	4,237 (9%)	4,235 (9%)	4,159 (9%)	9%
West Midlands	5,742 (13%)	5,935 (13%)	5,932 (13%)	11%
Yorkshire & Humber	5,478 (12%)	5,155 (11%)	5,145 (11%)	10%
Total	45,671 (100%)	46,933 (100%)	45,902 (100%)	100%

## Issues or gaps in the data

98 services (74%) indicated there were known issues or gaps in the data they provided for the number of children. These included:

- services only having figures for children who are receiving support from the service (50% of all services)
- services not holding figures for children who have left school (20%)
- services not able to split out figures for children with permanent or temporary deafness (17%)
- services only having figures for children who are hearing-aid wearers (5%)
- the audiology service not referring children with a mild hearing loss to services (2%)
- the audiology service not referring children with a unilateral hearing loss to services (1%)

<sup>17</sup> In 2024 some services provided figures that indicated large changes. Not all services provided responses to queries on changes in the numbers of children and young people they reported.

- other (31%). Some of the ‘other’ answers given were different ways of expressing the above options, other reasons included:
  - incomplete data or a lack of data for some groups of children, e.g. children attending out of area education settings, in sixth form/college, home schooled children, in private schools, in special schools, in resource provisions, in alternative provisions, not on active caseload, with fluctuating hearing loss
  - difficulty determining whether a conductive hearing loss is definitely temporary
  - young people beyond the age of 19 not excluded
  - services only having information on children and young people where parental consent is given
  - ways of recording information, or databases being changed since the 2024 survey
  - differences in information captured by management systems and that held by TODs.

The extent of these issues and gaps is a reminder that the figures generated from the CRIDE survey need to be used with caution. The data in this report are only as good as the data held by and provided to us, by local authorities, and the above section raises questions about how we can improve the data collected on deaf children. At the same time, we believe that data generated through the CRIDE reports remain amongst the best sources of data available.

## What the survey tells us about the population of deaf children in England

The tables below provide breakdowns by age, level of deafness, and education setting.

*Table 4: Number of children living in the area, by age*

Age group	Number of deaf children reported	Percentage of total
Early years/pre-school	6,258	14%
Primary-aged	17,240	38%
Secondary-aged	15,644	35%
Post-16 and under the age of 20	5,844	13%
Total	44,986 <sup>18</sup>	

Since 2023 the proportion of deaf children in different age categories has changed as follows:

- early years/pre-school age – increased by two percentage points
- primary-aged – unchanged
- secondary-aged – decreased by one percentage point
- post-16 category – unchanged.

<sup>18</sup> 44,986 is the sum of the broken-down figures, the sum of the totals provided by services was 44,711.



By way of comparison, we looked at figures from the ONS statistics on population estimates by age<sup>19</sup> to see if there were any variations 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 were of 'primary age', etc. so the data below should be taken as a rough approximation only. In addition, the incidence of deafness is known to vary by age, reflecting the fact that some deaf children acquire deafness as they grow up.

Table 5: Proportion of children and young people by age

ONS (mid-2024 data)		CRIDE	
Category	Percentage of all children aged 0-19	Category	Percentage of total
Children aged 0 to 4	23%	Early years/pre-school	14%
Children aged 5 to 11	35%	Primary-aged (reception to year 6)	38%
Children aged 12 to 16	27%	Secondary-aged (year 7 to 11)	35%
Young people aged 17 to 19	15%	Post-16 and under the age of 20	13%

Table 6: Number of children living in the area, by level of deafness

Level of deafness	Number of deaf children reported	Percentage of total (where known)
Unilateral	9,700	23%
Mild	10,835	25%
Moderate	14,237	33%
Severe	3,337	8%
Profound	4,980	12%
Total (excluding 'not known')	43,089	
Not known	1,106	
Total (including 'not known')	44,195 <sup>20</sup>	

Since the 2023 survey, the proportion of children and young people with a:

- unilateral deafness has increased by one percentage point
- mild level of deafness is unchanged
- moderate level of deafness has increased by one percentage point
- severe level of deafness has decreased by one percentage point
- profound level of deafness is unchanged.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales>

<sup>20</sup> 44,195 was the sum of the broken-down figures, the sum of the totals provided by services was 44,846.

Based on feedback from services, a change was made to the question on deaf children in education settings in the 2025 survey, to include a new option for services to tell us about deaf children in resource provisions<sup>21</sup> that are not specifically for deaf children. This means that the results will not be directly comparable to those in previous years.

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<sup>21</sup> In the CRIDE survey, we have historically used the term 'resource provision' to include all schools with a resource provision, base or unit, specifically for deaf children and young people, regardless of whether staff in the resource provision are employed by the local authority or by the school.

Table 7: Number of children, living in the area, by educational setting

Type of educational provision		Number of deaf children	Percentage of total (where known)
<b>In local authority</b>	Supported only at home – pre-school children	2,959	7%
	Early years setting – pre-school children	2,772	6%
	Supported at home – of school age and home educated	339	1%
	Mainstream state-funded schools (including academies and free schools)	26,608	59%
	Mainstream independent (non-state-funded) schools (for example, Eton)	581	1%
	Resource provision (specifically for deaf children) in mainstream schools	1,708	4%
	Resource provision (not specifically for deaf children) in mainstream schools	253	1%
	Special schools for deaf pupils (whether state funded or non-maintained)	314	1%
	Other special schools, not specifically for deaf children (whether state funded or non-maintained)	4,502	10%
	All other post-16 provision (not including school sixth form)	2,092	5%
<b>Out of local authority</b>	Early years setting – pre-school children	75	0%
	Mainstream state-funded schools (including academies and free schools)	799	2%
	Mainstream independent (non-state-funded) schools	175	0%
	Resource provision (specifically for deaf children) in mainstream schools	212	0%
	Resource provision (not specifically for deaf children) in mainstream schools	20	0%
	Special schools for deaf pupils (whether state funded or non-maintained)	509	1%
	Other special school, not specifically for deaf children (whether state funded or non-maintained)	298	1%
	All other post-16 provision ( <b>not</b> including school sixth forms)	358	1%
<b>Other</b>	NEET (Not in Education, Employment or in Training) (post-16 only)	105	0%
	Other (e.g. Pupil referral units)	83	0%
<b>Total (excluding ‘not known’)</b>		44,762	
Not known		439	
<b>Total (including ‘not known’)</b>		45,201 <sup>22</sup>	

<sup>22</sup> 45,201 was the sum of the broken-down figures, the sum of the totals provided by services was 45,277.

The following table presents the same information as above but without splitting figures for whether in or out of the local authority, whilst also showing summary percentages for just school-aged deaf children.

*Table 8: Breakdown of types of educational provision*

<b>Type of educational provision (regardless of whether in or out of local authority)</b>	<b>Number of deaf children</b>	<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>Percentage of total school-aged children (i.e. excluding pre-school children and young people post-16)</b>
Supported only at home – pre-school children	2,959	7%	
Early years setting – pre-school children	2,847	6%	
Supported at home – of school age and home educated	339	1%	1%
Mainstream provision (including state-funded and independent schools)	28,163	62%	78%
Mainstream provision: resource provision for deaf children	1,920	4%	5%
Mainstream provision: resource provision not specifically for deaf children	273	1%	1%
Special schools for deaf children	823	2%	2%
Other special schools, not specifically for deaf children (whether state funded or non-maintained)	4,800	11%	13%
All other post-16 provision (not including school sixth form)	2,450	5%	
Other (e.g. Pupil referral units, NEET, not known)	627	1%	
Total	45,201	100%	
Total (excluding pre-school children and other post-16 provision and 'other')	36,318		100%

Since the 2023 survey, the proportion of school-aged children and young people in:

- mainstream provision (including state-funded and independent schools) has increased by one percentage point
- resource provisions (including those specifically for deaf children and those not specifically for deaf children) is unchanged
- special schools for deaf children has decreased by one percentage point
- other special schools, not specifically for deaf children has decreased by one percentage point.

Table 9: Breakdown of types of educational provision, by whether in or out of home local authority (where known)

Type of educational provision	Number of deaf children	Percentage of total
In home local authority	42,128	95%
Out of home local authority	2,446	5%
Total (not including 'not known' and 'other')	44,574	

Since 2015, the proportions of deaf children within and outside of their home local authority have remained the same.

### Children in special schools for deaf children and young people

The separate short survey for schools for deaf children and young people (which received responses from 16 schools) reported that there were 1,144 children and young people placed at their schools.

Services across England have reported 823 deaf children in special schools for deaf children. Comparing the figures provided by schools for deaf children and services, this suggests that services are under-reporting the number of deaf children in schools for deaf children by around 39%.

### Incidence of additional special educational needs (SEN)

Services reported that the number of deaf children with an additional special educational need<sup>23</sup> was 10,862<sup>24</sup>. This is 24% of the adjusted total of deaf children, the same percentage as in 2023.

### Languages used

Services were asked to tell us about the languages mainly used in school/other education setting. Caution is needed when looking at the results because the 130 services<sup>25</sup> who responded to this question identified 43,467 children. This is lower than the figure of 45,902 identified earlier in this report (see table 1).

<sup>23</sup> Defined as any other special educational need apart from deafness, regardless of whether this need is recognised as a 'primary' or 'secondary' need.

<sup>24</sup> 10,862 children were reported by 117 services. 15 services did not provide an answer to this question.

<sup>25</sup> 130 services reported 43,467 children. A small number of services reported they had not included children in early years/not in education settings due to the wording of the question.

Table 10: Number of deaf children, by languages mainly used in school/other educational setting

Language	Total	Percentage of responses (where known)
Spoken English	36,050	88%
British Sign Language	845	2%
Spoken English together with signed support	1,693	4%
Other combination	2,312	6%
Total known	40,900	
Not known	2,567	
Total including not known	43,467 <sup>26</sup>	

Comparing with data from the 2023 survey when this question was last asked, the proportion of children and young people using:

- spoken English has decreased from 89% to 88%
- British Sign Language has remained the same at 2%
- spoken English together with signed support has decreased from 6% to 4%
- other combination has increased from 4% to 6%.

We saw earlier in table 6 that there were 8,317 children with severe or profound deafness. If it is assumed that children with severe or profound deafness are more likely to use sign language, it can be estimated that 10% of children with severe/profound deafness used British Sign Language in education whilst 20% used signed support with spoken English. Combined, 31% of children with severe/profound deafness used some form of sign language in education. It should be stressed that this is a very rough approximation made for illustration purposes only. It must also be stressed that the use of spoken/sign language in education may not always match the use of spoken/sign language within the home or the child's own preferences.

## Pupil premium

We asked services how many children were known to be eligible for the Pupil Premium. 45 services provided a figure of over zero in answer to this question, reporting a total of 2,974 children and young people. This amounts to 17% of the total number of deaf children identified in these 45 areas. However, 18 of the 45 services also commented that the data they provided was not necessarily complete or accurate. If we include only the data provided by the other 27 services, 1,668 children were reported to be known to be eligible for the Pupil Premium, 17% of the total for these 27 areas.

<sup>26</sup> 43,467 was the sum of the broken-down figures provided by services. The sum of the totals provided by services was 41,441.

We also asked special schools for deaf children separately how many deaf children in their schools were eligible for the Pupil Premium. 16 schools responded, reporting 425 children. This is 37% of the 1,144 children reported by special schools for deaf children.

## How do CRIDE's 2025 figures compare to School Census figures?

Because of the differences in how data have been collected and definitions used, we recommend the following figures be used as a basis for further debate and analysis, rather than to reach firm conclusions.

School Census figures for 2024/2025<sup>27</sup> indicate there were 23,764 children where deafness is the primary special educational need (SEN) and who have been placed at SEN support or have an EHC plan. School Census figures also indicate that there were an additional 5,194 children where deafness was a secondary need. The School Census therefore records a total of 28,958 children where deafness was a primary or secondary need. The 28,958 deaf children identified by the School Census amount to 63% of the 45,902 deaf children identified by local authorities through CRIDE.

Recognising that School Census figures mostly cover school-aged children, the following table compares the number of deaf SEN children aged 5 to 16 with CRIDE data on primary and secondary aged children. It suggests that 27 % of school-aged children are not captured by published Government data, compared to those identified by local authorities for the CRIDE survey.

*Table 11: Comparison of data on school-aged children from School Census and CRIDE*

	<b>Number of deaf SEN children – from School Census</b>	<b>Number of deaf children – from CRIDE 2025</b>	<b>Percentage of deaf SEN children as total of CRIDE figure</b>
Primary aged (Years 1 to 6)	10,614	17,240	62%
Secondary aged (Years 7 to 11)	10,241	15,644	65%
Total	20,855	32,884	63%

There was a total of 8,079 deaf children with an EHC plan (5,585 where deafness was a primary need and 2,512 a secondary need). Comparing this figure with the total number of children identified by the CRIDE survey, this would indicate that around 18% of deaf children had an EHC plan.

<sup>27</sup> Figures extracted from <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england/2024-25> and analysed by the National Deaf Children's Society. The Department for Education uses the term 'hearing impairment' in the School Census; in this report, we have changed this term to deafness.

Looking specifically at data on school-aged deaf SEN children with EHC plans, where deafness was the primary need, the following table indicates that at least 17% of school-aged deaf children had an EHC plan.

*Table 12: Comparison of data on school-aged children with EHC plans with data from CRIDE*

	<b>Number of deaf children with an EHC plan (where deafness is primary need)</b>	<b>Number of deaf children – from CRIDE 2025</b>	<b>Percentage of deaf children with EHC plan as total of CRIDE figure</b>
Primary aged (5 to 10)	2,655	17,240	15%
Secondary aged (11 to 15)	2,930	15,644	19%
Total	5,585	32,884	17%



## **PART 2: Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People and other specialist staff**

We asked how many Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (TODs) were working in different settings, including those in a peripatetic role, working in resource provisions and/or working in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people.<sup>28</sup> We also separately asked schools for deaf children in England for figures on TOD posts. We found that:

- overall, there were at least 1,222 fte teachers working as TODs in England.
- 79% of these posts were occupied by fully qualified TODs, 12% were occupied by teachers in training for the mandatory qualification, 7% were occupied by qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training, and 2% were occupied by people not qualified as teachers.<sup>29</sup>
- at the time the survey was completed, there were at least 41 fte vacant posts reported.
- if the vacant posts are added to the total number of TODs in employment, this would indicate there were at least 1,263 fte TOD posts, of which 3% were vacant.

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<sup>28</sup> It should be kept in mind that these figures include data from 132 out of 133 services, one service did not provide a complete response to the survey.

<sup>29</sup> The category of People not qualified as Teachers was only asked about in the separate survey for schools for deaf children and young people.

Table 13: Number of ToD posts overall (fte)<sup>30</sup>

	<b>Working mainly as a peripatetic TODs</b> (total and percentage)	<b>Working mainly in a resource provision</b> (total and percentage)	<b>Working mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people</b> (total and percentage)	<b>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</b> (total and percentage)	<b>Working in a special school for deaf children and young people</b> (total and percentage)	<b>TOD posts overall</b> (total and percentage)
TODs with the mandatory qualification	575.305 (91%)	221.53 (76%)	2 (100%)	4.2 (81%)	163.23 (56%)	966.265 (79%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years	50.4 (8%)	56.65 (20%)	0 (0%)	1 (19%)	35.4 (12%)	143.45 (12%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	6.7 (1%)	12.3 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	72.31 (25%)	91.31 (7%)
People not qualified as teachers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.5 (7%)	21.5 (2%)
Total - in employment	632.405 (100%)	290.48 (100%)	2 (100%)	5.2 (100%)	292.44 (100%)	1,222.525 (100%)
Vacant posts	24.225 (4%)	16.4 (5%)	0.4 (17%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	41.025 (3%)
Total – posts	656.63 (100%)	306.88 (100%)	2.4 (100%)	5.2 (100%)	292.44 (100%)	1,263.55 (100%)

The following table summarises the above by just showing the numbers of TODs in employment by their role only.

<sup>30</sup> Percentages for TODs with the mandatory qualification, Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification within 3 years, and Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training, as well as People not qualified as teachers are out of the total in post. Percentages for vacant posts are out of all posts.

Table 14: Number of TODs in employment overall by role (fte)

	Total TODs in post	Percentage
Working mainly as a peripatetic TODs	632.405	52%
Working mainly in a resource provision	290.48	24%
Working mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people	2	0%
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	5.2	0%
Working in a special school for deaf children and young people	292.44	24%
Total of figures given	1,222.525	100%

Figures for TODs in auditory implant programmes across England were collected in a separate survey. Responses were received from 12 programmes. There were at least 23.5 fte fully qualified TODs reported in post, and 0.4 fte vacancies reported. This means there were 23.9 fte posts, of which 2% were vacant. There were no TODs in training for the mandatory qualification or not in training or people who have not qualified as a teacher reported.

## Changes in numbers of TODs

In terms of changes in numbers of TODs in specific roles:

- overall, the number of peripatetic TODs in employment has increased slightly by 0.6% from 628.72 in 2024 to 632.405 fte. Of these, the proportion with the mandatory qualification has increased from 89% to 91% whilst the number in training has decreased from 11% to 8%
- the number of TODs in employment in resource provisions has decreased 6% from 310.27 to 290.48 fte. Of these, the proportion with the mandatory qualification and in training have both remained unchanged at 76% and 20% respectively. It should be noted, however, that two services did not provide information this year on TODs in resource provisions in their areas.<sup>31</sup>
- the number of TODs in employment and working flexibly between different roles and settings has fallen from 7.25 to 5.2 fte
- the number of reported TODs in employment in special schools for deaf children has increased from 271.61 to 292.44 fte. Of these, the proportion who are qualified teachers but without the mandatory qualification to teach deaf children has increased from 24 to 25%. The proportion in training has decreased slightly from 13% to 12%, whilst the proportion with the mandatory qualification has decreased slightly from 58% to 56%.

<sup>31</sup> If we were to add the figures provided by those two services in 2024 for TODs in employment in resource provisions to the 2025 figures for TODs in employment in resource provisions, it would show a 5% decrease rather than a 6% decrease.

The following table looks at changes in the number of qualified TODs in employment and posts since 2011.<sup>32</sup>

Unless specified, these and other tables in the sections that follow **do not** include TODs working in special schools for deaf children or cochlear implant programmes as this data, collected separately, has not been collected consistently by CRIDE over time.

As set out earlier, when making year on year comparisons, anomalies can sometimes appear in the responses.<sup>33</sup> We make every effort to investigate anomalies that appear particularly strange; however, services and schools do not always respond to such queries.

Table 15: Changes in numbers of TODs from year to year<sup>34</sup>

	<b>TODs with the mandatory qualification in employment (fte)</b>	<b>TODs with the mandatory qualification in employment or in training (fte)</b>	<b>Teachers working as TODs in employment (fte)</b>	<b>Vacant posts (fte)</b>	<b>Number of TOD posts (including vacancies) (fte)</b>
2025 <sup>35</sup>	803.035	911.085	930.085	41.025	971.11
2024	803.54	934.84	949.14	34.82	983.96
2023	841.95	937.15	951.95	42	993.95
2022	860.34	945.14	960.74	43.1	1,003.84
2021 <sup>36</sup>	874.82	962.92	974.52	44.65	1,019.17
2019	903.41	1,007.77	1,019.37	34.8	1,054.17
2018	898.82	1,020.62	1,027.87	30.8	1,058.67
2017	913.75	1,037.35	1,050.75	44.65	1,095.4
2016	932.38	1,047.18	1,059.28	60.9	1,120.18
2015	995.75	1,117.85	1,126.35	45.6	1,171.95
2014	999.2	1,071.3	1,079.9	45.8	1,125.7
2013	1,031.89	1,097.29	1,104.49	40.75	1,145.24
2012	1,063.7	1,125.6	1,136.4	44.5	1,180.9
2011	1,062.11	1,153.71	1,162.51	34	1,196.51

(2020 data not included because of lower response rate to survey)

<sup>32</sup> A small number of services reported that service leads/managers, and resource provision management time was or may have been included in responses in previous years.

<sup>33</sup> One service that showed a reduction in TODs since the 2024 survey commented that there hadn't been an actual reduction, but previously they had not accurately reflected management time for some TODs.

<sup>34</sup> In 2017, we began to ask about TODs in special schools or colleges not specifically for deaf children or young people. Figures from before/after are therefore not directly comparable. However, it is worth noting that the inclusion of these figures did not lead to a noticeable increase in the number of TODs.

<sup>35</sup> One service did not provide a complete response, therefore figures given here represent 132 out of 133 services.

<sup>36</sup> In 2022 one service reported that in 2021 13 TODs working in special schools for deaf children were included in their main CRIDE survey as working in special schools or colleges not specifically for deaf children and were therefore double counted. The 2021 data was adjusted for this, however in years prior to that ToDs working in schools for deaf children were also double counted and given the complexities and uncertainties involved in correcting data going back several years, data from previous years have not been adjusted to reflect this issue.

Table 16: Percentage change in numbers of TODs<sup>37</sup>

	Percentage change over past 14 years (between 2011 and 2025)	Percentage change over past year (between 2024 and 2025)
TODs with the mandatory qualification in employment	-24%	0%
TODs with the mandatory qualification in employment <b>or</b> in training	-21%	-3%
Teachers working as TODs in employment	-20%	-2%
Vacant posts	21%	18%
Number of TOD posts (including vacancies)	-19%	-1%

In the 132 services for which we were able to compare figures from year to year, we found that 37% had seen an increase in the number of TODs in employment between the 2024 and 2025 surveys, 30% had seen no change, while 34% had seen a decrease.

## Recruitment of TODs

In terms of recruitment of TODs over the past year:

- 67 services (51%) had sought to recruit a TOD over the past year, of these:
  - 57 services (88% of services that provided an answer)<sup>38</sup> appointed to all roles
  - 4 services (6%) appointed to some roles but not all roles
  - 4 services (6%) did not appoint.
- If services were able to appoint, services were asked if those appointed were already a qualified TOD:
  - 28 services (47% of services that provided an answer)<sup>39</sup> reported that all TODs appointed were qualified TODs
  - 14 services (23%) reported that some TODs appointed were qualified but not all
  - 18 services (30%) reported that TODs appointed were not qualified.

Services were then asked about what steps were being taken if they were not able to appoint someone or that person was not a qualified TOD:

- People appointed were in training for the mandatory qualification, or were due to start the training.

<sup>37</sup> These changes were calculated using information from 133 services in 2024 and 132 services in 2025.

<sup>38</sup> 65 services provided an answer to this question.

<sup>39</sup> 60 services provided an answer to this question.

- TODs in training were being mentored and supervised.
- People employed had relevant experience, including people experienced in working with deaf children and young people employed, a Deaf person with BSL as their first language, or experienced SEN teachers.
- Supply TODs were in place, or temporary staff were employed.

Services were also asked what the impact of not being able to appoint someone, or that person not being a qualified TOD was having on deaf children and families:

- Some services said there was no or minimal impact due to the measures they were taking. These included mentoring, supervision, clear training programmes, shadowing/joint visits, working alongside experienced QTODs, adjusting caseload allocations, ensuring new referrals were seen by a qualified TOD, all parents having access to a qualified TOD through drop-ins or weekly groups.
- When unqualified TODs were appointed, services reported challenges with staffing and financial pressures to provide the mentoring and oversight and shadowing time that is needed, and to cover training time.
- Some services referred to measures to manage TOD capacity, and children sometimes being taught by other staff.
- Where comments focussed on resource provisions, these included:
  - Peripatetic services supporting resource provisions (including directly supporting children and unqualified TODs in resource provisions).
  - Families not always having direct contact with a TOD and being asked to contact the school SENCo instead.
  - Some children were not receiving allocated provision.
  - Reduced capacity for specialist teaching.
  - The resource provision using specialist teaching assistants and a Deaf Instructor to meet needs.
- One service did not feel there was a negative impact because the new TOD employed was Deaf, used BSL as their first language and they were a positive role model who taught BSL to the children and families.

## **Regional figures**

The tables below provide a regional perspective on numbers of TODs. Figures for 2025 represent responses from 132 out of 133 services in England, therefore comparisons to other years should be treated with caution.

Table 17: Number of qualified TODs by region

Region	TODs with the mandatory qualification in 2011 (fte)	TODs with the mandatory qualification in 2024 (fte)	TODs with the mandatory qualification in 2025 (fte)	Percentage change between 2011 and 2025	Percentage change between 2024 and 2025
East England	97.6	84.42	88.02	-10%	4%
East Midlands	87.6	49.4	57.4	-34%	16%
London	165.4	148.55	141.46	-14%	-5%
North East	57.5	44.55	44.6	-22%	0%
North West <sup>40</sup>	191.96	116.17	105.555	-45%	-9%
South East	142.15	114.35	121.95	-14%	7%
South West	95.6	63.5	62.1	-35%	-2%
West Midlands	98.15	86.8	87.35	-11%	1%
Yorkshire & Humber	126.15	95.8	94.6	-25%	-1%
Total	1,062.11	803.54	803.035	-24%	0%

Table 18: Number of qualified TODs and teachers in training for the mandatory qualification by region

Region	Qualified or trainee TODs in 2011 (fte)	Qualified or trainee TODs in 2024 (fte)	Qualified or trainee TODs in 2025 (fte)	Percentage change between 2011 and 2025	Percentage change between 2024 and 2025
East England	105.1	98.42	101.02	-4%	3%
East Midlands	95.4	66.2	67.3	-29%	2%
London	183.7	174.85	166.06	-10%	-5%
North East	62.6	51.15	48.6	-22%	-5%
North West <sup>41</sup>	209.66	128.57	116.155	-45%	-10%
South East	153.45	138.65	137.05	-11%	-1%
South West	98.6	70.9	69.05	-30%	-3%
West Midlands	106.95	94	92.55	-13%	-2%
Yorkshire & Humber	138.25	112.1	113.3	-18%	1%
Total	1,153.71	934.84	911.085	-21%	-3%

<sup>40</sup> 12 TODs with the mandatory qualification were inaccurately included by a service in the North West in 2021 and were likely to have been included in previous figures. These have not been removed from figures for 2011 due to uncertainty about the exact nature of the double counting prior to 2021. Additionally, the service that did not provide a complete response to the survey in 2025 is in the North West, meaning figures from 2025 are not directly comparable to previous years.

<sup>41</sup> 12 TODs with the mandatory qualification were inaccurately included by a service in the North West in 2021 and were likely to have been included in previous figures. These have not been removed from figures for 2011 due to uncertainty about the exact nature of the double counting prior to 2021. Additionally, the service that did not provide a complete response to the survey is in the North West, meaning figures from 2025 are not directly comparable to previous years.

## Additional qualifications and background of TODs

Table 19: Additional post-graduate specialist qualification in early years support for deaf children

	<b>Number of teachers (fte)</b>	<b>Percentage of the TODs in employment in the relevant category</b>	<b>Number of services with staff in relevant category</b>
Working mainly as a peripatetic TOD	34.6	5%	30
Working mainly in a resource provision	3.05	1%	4
Working mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people	0	0%	0
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	0.4	8%	1
Total	38.05	4%	

This means that 4% of all TODs in post had an additional post-graduate specialist qualification in early years support. This has fallen from 2023 when there were 61.45 TODs with this qualification, 6% of the then total.



Table 20: Additional specialist qualification as educational audiologists

	<b>Number of teachers (fte)</b>	<b>Percentage of the TODs in employment in the relevant category</b>	<b>Number of services with staff in relevant category</b>
Working mainly as a peripatetic TOD	46.5	7%	53
Working mainly in a resource provision	5.4	2%	6
Working mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people	0	0%	0
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	0.4	8%	1
Total	52.3	6%	

This means that 6% of all TODs in post had additional specialist qualifications as educational audiologists. This is similar to 2023, when there were 56.1 TODs with this qualification, 6% of the then total.

The 2025 CRIDE survey included new questions about the BSL language skills of TODs, and whether TODs were themselves deaf.

Table 21: TODs who use BSL as a first language or have a Level 3 qualification (or equivalent) or above

	<b>Number of teachers (fte)</b>	<b>Percentage of the TODs in employment in the relevant category</b>	<b>Number of services with staff in relevant category</b>
Working mainly as a peripatetic TOD	157.6	25%	91
Working mainly in a resource provision	85.1	29%	43
Working mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people	1	50%	1
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	1.9	37%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>245.6</b>	<b>26%</b>	

This means that 26% of all TODs in post used BSL as a first language or had a Level 3 qualification (or equivalent) or above.

We asked services how many TODs were deaf themselves. Some services reported that they did not formally gather this data, or did not provide this information. Based on figures that were provided by services, overall 10% of TODs (96.8 fte) in employment were deaf themselves:

- 12% of TODs working mainly in peripatetic were deaf, as reported by 60 services
- 7% of TODs working mainly in resource provisions were deaf, as reported by 21 services
- <5 TODs working flexibly were deaf.

## Other specialist staff

We found that there were at least 585.86 fte specialist support staff reported in the roles in table 23, other than TODs, directly employed by services, supporting deaf children. There were at least 43.98 fte vacant post reported. This means there were at least 629.84 fte specialist staff posts, of which 7% were vacant and unfilled.<sup>42</sup> As later outlined, information on other specialist staff roles not in these roles that were directly employed by services was reported separately in this

<sup>42</sup> Some services reported staff time differently this year compared to last year, e.g. if staff we shared between the service and other teams. One service did not provide full broken-down figures for staff.

survey. Where services gave an estimated fte, these roles totalled 44.11 fte. If we add these to the staff reported in table 23, there were 629.97 fte staff in employment, representing a decrease of 2% in staff in employment since 2024, and at least 673.95 fte posts.<sup>43</sup>

Table 23: Number of specialist support staff, by role

	Posts in total		...of which are staff in employment		...of which are vacant and unfilled posts	
	Number of staff (full time equivalent)	Number of services with posts	Number of staff (full time equivalent)	Number of services with staff in employment	Number of staff (full time equivalent)	Number of services with vacant and unfilled posts
Teaching assistants/Classroom support assistants/Learning support assistants etc	359.03 (100%)	75	339 (94%)	74	20.03 (6%)	17
Communication support workers etc	145.53 (100%)	24	127.83 (88%)	22	17.7 (12%)	12
NRCPD registered BSL/English interpreters	6.6 (100%)	7	6.6 (100%)	7	0 (0%)	0
Deaf instructors/Deaf role models/Sign language instructors etc	61.72 (100%)	46	57.27 (93%)	44	4.45 (7%)	6
Educational audiologists/Audiologists in Education who <b>do not</b> also hold a qualification as a TOD	3.88 (100%)	6	3.48 (90%)	5	0.4 (10%)	1
Technicians, etc	34.98 (100%)	35	34.18 (98%)	34	0.8 (2%)	1
Speech and language therapists	5.7 (100%)	9	5.7 (100%)	9	0 (0%)	0
Family support workers/Liaison officers	12.4 (100%)	15	11.8 (95%)	15	0.6 (5%)	1
Social workers/Social workers for deaf children and young people	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	629.84 (100%)		585.86 (93%)		43.98 (7%)	

<sup>43</sup> There may additionally be vacant posts for those in other roles not listed.

We then asked, of these other specialist staff in post directly employed by the services, how many were deaf themselves. Some services did not provide this information in figures, and some services reported that they did not formally gather this data. Based on figures that were provided by services, 17% of specialist support staff (98.12 fte) were deaf. Looking at specific roles:

- 93% of Deaf instructors/Deaf role models/Sing language instructors were deaf
- 10% of Communication support workers etc were deaf
- 8% of Teaching assistants/Classroom support assistants/Learning support assistants etc were deaf
- <5 Family support workers/liaison officers were deaf
- <5 Technicians were deaf
- No Speech and language therapists or Social workers were reported as being deaf themselves.

Information on other specialist staff roles directly employed by services was reported separately in this survey. Where services gave an estimated fte, these roles totalled 44.11 fte, and included:

- Educational Audiologist
- Technicians
- RP Specialist Practitioner
- Specialist Cover Supervisor in Deaf Provision
- Specialist Nursery Nurse
- Specialist Early Years Educator
- Preschool Hearing Practitioner
- Language Support Outreach Worker
- Portage Home Visitor
- Habilitation Officer
- Sensory Support Specialist
- SI Team Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- Specialist Deaf Assistant
- Specialist Practitioner for the Deaf
- Specialist Sensory Learning Mentor
- MSI/Deafness Advisory Support Worker
- Specialist Support Worker
- Qualified Teacher of Multi Sensory Impairment
- MSI Intervenor
- SEN Officer
- Student Wellbeing Officer
- Specialist Therapeutic and Wellbeing Practitioner

- Touch Typing Tutor
- Business Support Officer/Business Manager
- Admin and Finance Officer
- Midday Supervisor/Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant
- Moving and Handling Support Workers.

## PART 3: Support provided

Table 25: Where services are based

	Number of services	Percentage
Based in the local authority	121	92%
Based in a school with a resource provision	4	3%
Based in a special school for deaf children	1	1%
Based in a special school not specifically for deaf children	1	1%
Provided by another body or organisation	5	4%
Total	132	

### Number of resource provisions

In the CRIDE survey, we use the term ‘resource provision’ to include all schools (mainstream or special) with a resource provision, base or unit specifically for deaf children, regardless of whether staff in the resource provision are employed by the local authority or by the school.

Table 26: Number of resource provisions<sup>44</sup>

	Managed by the local authority	Managed by the schools	Total
Resource provisions for primary-aged children	43.5	79	122.5
Resource provisions for secondary-aged children	27.5	65	92.5
Total	71	144	215

We found that:

- 84 services (64%) had at least one resource provision for primary-aged children in their area
- 72 services (55%) had at least one resource provision for secondary-aged children in their area.

The total of 215 resource provisions reported by services across England is a decrease of five from 2024 when the services reported 220 resource provisions. However, one service reported two resource provisions in their area in the past, whereas this year they appear to have not obtained this information for their survey response. Additionally, the service that did not provide a full survey response this year reported one resource provision in 2024. Assuming these are

<sup>44</sup> One response indicated that there was a resource provision which supports children of both primary and secondary age. This resource provision has been recorded as 0.5 for each age group in the table.

all still open, this would mean a total reduction of two resource provisions since 2024 instead.<sup>45</sup>

Some services commented that arrangements for how resource provisions were managed and delivered were not straightforward, and therefore there may be changes between years in how they have reported them being managed and delivered. Additionally, some services reported resource provisions that were not active, with no pupils attending, but that were not formally closed.

*Table 27: Number of resource provisions over time*

Year	Number of resource provisions
2025 <sup>46</sup>	215
2024	220
2023	227
2022	230
2021	237
2019	246
2018	240
2017	251
2016	260

*(2020 data not included because of lower response rate to survey)*

We also looked at the number of resource provisions against the number of deaf children.<sup>47</sup> This is intended to indicate the spread of resource provisions across England, relative to the overall population of deaf children. We found that, on average, there was one resource provision for every 211 deaf children. In 2024 there was one resource provision for every 213 deaf children.

This is **not** a measure of the number of places available or individual deaf children enrolled at each resource provision; figures for places or deaf children enrolled will vary from provision to provision. It should also be kept in mind that the information services are able to provide on the numbers of deaf children in their area varies in terms of gaps and known issues.

<sup>45</sup> By way of comparison, a separate Freedom of Information Request issued in 2024 by the National Deaf Children's Society to local authorities in England identified 217 resource provisions. See Resource provisions in England: survey of local authorities (2024), <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/advice-and-support/all-advice-and-support-topics/research-and-data-childhood-deafness/education-support-research>.

<sup>46</sup> Additionally, one service that reported two resource provisions in the past appears to have not obtained this information for their survey response, and the service that did not provide a full survey response this year reported one resource provision in 2024.

<sup>47</sup> The number of children and young people with permanent deafness living in the area.

Table 28: Population of deaf children covered by each resource provision

<b>Region</b>	<b>Average ratio</b>
East England	170:1
East Midlands	295:1
London	155:1
North East	202:1
North West	351:1
South East	128:1
South West	285:1
West Midlands	395:1
Yorkshire & Humber	245:1
England	211:1



## PART 4: Support following identification of deafness

We asked services how many referrals they received over the calendar year of 2024.<sup>48</sup>

Table 29: Referrals

	Number and percentage of referrals	Number of services <sup>49</sup>
For children identified as deaf through the newborn hearing screening programme	1,090 (13%)	127
For children identified as deaf outside of the newborn hearing programme and <b>before</b> they had started statutory education	1,967 (24%)	125
For children identified as deaf outside of the newborn hearing programme and <b>after</b> they had started statutory education	5,214 (63%)	127
Total of figures given	8,271 <sup>50</sup> (100%)	

In terms of changes since the 2024 survey:

- the total number of referrals over the calendar year has increased from 7,481 to 8,271
- the proportion of referrals through the newborn hearing screening programme has decreased from 14% to 13%
- referrals for children identified outside newborn hearing screening and before statutory education has remained unchanged at 24%
- referrals for children identified outside newborn hearing screening but after they had started statutory education has increased from 62% to 63%.

We then asked services about arrangements for first TOD visits for referrals made during the summer holidays.

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<sup>48</sup> Two services did not provide any figures on referrals to the service. One service commented that the figures they provided for referrals to the service were not necessarily secure. One service reported that figures may have been provided differently in previous years, e.g. in previous years they didn't include children with temporary conductive deafness but this year they did and there had been changes in who the service supports.

<sup>49</sup> This is the number of services that provided a figure over 0.

<sup>50</sup> 8,274 was the sum of the broken-down figures provided by services. 8,157 was the sum of the totals provided by services.

Table 30: TOD first visits for referrals made during the summer holidays

	<b>Number of services</b>	<b>Percentage of services</b>
Cover arrangements are in place to enable a TOD to provide a visit during the summer holidays within the same timescales as if referred during term time	76	58%
Cover arrangements are in place to enable a TOD to provide a visit during the summer holidays but not necessarily within the same timescales as if referred during term time	20	15%
A TOD visits as soon as possible after the school holidays	12	9%
Other	24	18%
Total	132	

Comments on other arrangements included:

- Referrals for children received from the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP) receive a first visit during the holiday, referrals received outside of NHSP receive a visit as soon as possible after the holiday.
- Initial contact made via phone call or online meeting (sometimes by a TOD, sometimes by other colleagues), with an initial TOD visit taking place after the holiday.
- Priority for first visits during the holiday is given to families referred via NHSP, or for children newly identified with severe or profound deafness, or where parental anxiety is marked on the referral.
- Holiday cover provided by Speech and Language Therapy and Portage colleagues. TOD visits as soon as possible after the holiday.

## **PART 5: Issues or challenges**

Services were asked if there were any wider issues or challenges that had emerged over the past year that had a significant impact on the support they were able to provide to deaf children. These included:

Increases in referrals and caseloads:

- Increased referrals and caseloads.
- Increases in referrals for the number of children and young people with additional needs.
- Increases in post-16 demands for support.
- Increases in complex new cases, e.g. those from overseas, who have not had early identification and intervention, some of whom had had limited educational opportunities, some of whom are identified as having significant SEN.
- Increases in support requested for children and young people with temporary deafness, including those with hearing aids and bone conduction hearing aids.
- Increases in pupils known to multiple services and with more identified needs, resulting in pressures on colleagues as they attend team around the family/school meetings, and support for EHCP requests, etc.
- Increases in children and young people attending out of area provisions for deaf children, with an increase in the need to liaise with the settings, oversee initial placement, and ongoing queries.
- Increases in referrals from other local authorities and the time it takes to get information.
- Requests for support and funding of equipment for children and young people with APD.

Providing support:

- Increased workloads.
- Challenges ensuring TOD support is offered to children and young people in out of area special schools not specifically for deaf children.
- Cross border policies regarding support and provision of assistive technology vary.
- Uptake of deaf awareness training by schools.
- Challenge of raising awareness and understanding of the specialist roles and the need for provision for deaf children.

Recruitment and training:

- Challenges in recruiting staff with relevant skills, including mentions of Service Lead, qualified TODs, specialists, CSWs, a Deaf Inclusion Access Worker, and resource provision staff.

- Vacant posts remaining vacant for long periods of time, and long-term sickness.
- Frozen budgets.
- Recruitment freezes, sometimes meaning supply TODs and TAs are used to support shortfall.
- Service restructure.
- Not enough support staff in peripatetic services.
- Internal cover having to be provided by TODs and the Team Leader.
- Challenges of developing skills, supervising and mentoring of teachers in training/newly qualified TODs, whilst meeting demands.

#### Health services:

- A reported reduction and provision in health services having a knock-on impact on service delivery.
- Long ENT waiting times. Children with temporary deafness then receive hearing aids and are referred to services. This also impacts audiology departments.
- Different audiology departments dispensing different hearing aid brands, making it difficult to provide compatible supportive listening devices.
- Some children with temporary conductive deafness not being referred to services for a long time, without support in educational settings, only being referred to the service when the hearing loss becomes permanent, and educational progress has been compromised.
- Not all audiology clinics referring to the service as a matter of course.
- The removal of the School Hearing Screening Programme leading to some children not being identified until later in their education.
- Audiology clinics are under pressure due to recruitment.
- Serious Incident/Local reviews of audiology resulting in significant caseload increases, and sometimes causing a lack of confidence and trust among parents.
- No specialist speech and language therapist in an area.
- Hard to get diagnosis and support for neurodiverse children.
- Long waiting lists for Deaf CAHMS referrals impacting students negatively.

#### Wider issues:

- Complexity of the rules and guidance for moving school staff into the local authority.
- Finding support for the wider families of deaf children and young people with English as an additional language.
- Turnover in class teachers having a knock-on effect on deaf awareness and understanding.
- The rising cost of living.
- Underinvestment in SEND spending at a national level leading to budgetary constraints at a local level.

- Significant numbers of mainstream pupils finding school/learning difficult.

## 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: British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People, British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People Cymru, Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, Longwill School for the Deaf, National Deaf Children's Society, Royal School for the Deaf Derby, UCL, University of Edinburgh, former heads of services or consultants with expertise in deafness, and specialist education services for deaf children in Cambridgeshire, Camden, Kent, Leeds and STARS Sensory Support Service (Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland).

The survey alternates from year to year between a standard survey and a survey with a mix of core and thematic questions. The 2025 survey was the version with a standard survey.

The survey was disseminated to services in England in February 2025 by National Deaf Children's Society staff on behalf of CRIDE. Where there was no response by 14 March, members of CRIDE contacted services by email and/or telephone. Where services had not responded after this, Freedom of Information requests were sent. The table below sets out the response rate at each stage.

*Table 31: Response rate by services to the CRIDE survey*

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Cumulative total</b>
First deadline – 14 March 2025	108	108
Second deadline following chasers	17	125
FOI requests	7	132 <sup>51</sup>

Services were able to respond by completing an online survey. If they were not able to do this they could complete a Word document of the survey. Analysis of the results using Excel and drafting of this report was largely completed by the National Deaf Children's Society, with guidance and clearance from members of CRIDE.

CRIDE would like to thank the services for taking the time to complete this survey. 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](mailto:cride@ndcs.org.uk).

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<sup>51</sup> Additionally, one service did not provide a full survey response.

## 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 2025.

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 resource 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 a service 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 in neighbouring areas. 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 or deaf children enrolled will vary from provision to provision.

Table 32: Data by local authority

	Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	TODs in the specialist peripatetic service	TODs in resource provisions (RPs)	TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people	TODs working flexibly	Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision
<b>East of England</b>						
Bedford Borough	221	2.5	No resource provisions reported	0	0	221:0
Cambridgeshire	456	9.2	2	0	0	228:1

	Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	TODs in the specialist peripatetic service	TODs in resource provisions (RPs)	TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people	TODs working flexibly	Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision
Central Bedfordshire	220	2	1.6	None reported	None reported	73:1
Essex	1,062	12.6	19.2	0	0	133:1
Hertfordshire	538	8.8	2	0	0	269:1
Luton <sup>52</sup>	464	1	1.8	None reported	None reported	232:1
Norfolk	757	11.4	1.8	0	0	379:1
Peterborough	279	3.8	1.6	None reported	None reported	140:1
Southend	163	1.2	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	163:0
Suffolk	475	6.2	5.72	0	0	95:1
Thurrock	115	1.4	5.2	0	0	58:1
<b>East Midlands</b>						
Derby City	209	3.3	2.7	0	0	105:1
Derbyshire	424	6.8	No data	None reported	None reported	106:1
Leicester City	363	6	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	363:0
Leicestershire and Rutland	549	7.5	1.2	0	0	549:1
Lincolnshire	255	8.2	No resource provisions reported	0	0	255:0
North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire	776	12.6	1.8	0	0	388:1

<sup>52</sup> The figures provided by Luton on children and young people included up to date figures for the primary service, and figures from 2024 for the secondary service. A new data system was in place and was in the process of being populated.



	Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	TODs in the specialist peripatetic service	TODs in resource provisions (RPs)	TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people	TODs working flexibly	Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision
Nottingham City	241 <sup>53</sup>	5	5.5	0	0	121:1
Nottinghamshire	431	6.7	No resource provisions reported	0	0	431:0
<b>London</b>						
Barking and Dagenham	173	1.8	6.4	0	0	58:1
Barnet	392	2.6	3.2	0	0	196:1
Bexley	217	1	1	0	0	217:1
Brent	254	3.2	2.5	None reported	None reported	127:1
Bromley	256	4.3	6.7	None reported	None reported	128:1
Camden	145	2	No resource provisions reported	0	0	145:0
Croydon	426	6.4	1.6	0	0	426:1
Ealing	285	2.3	0 <sup>54</sup>	0	0	143:1
Greenwich	284	3	6.4	None reported	None reported	95:1
Hackney	308	4	1	None reported	None reported	308:1
Hammersmith & Fulham	107	1.4	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	107:0
Haringey and Enfield	566	6	2	None reported	None reported	283:1
Harrow	240	3.3	1.6	0	0	120:1
Havering	250	2	3.25	None reported	None reported	125:1

<sup>53</sup> The service did not provide an overall figure for children and young people with permanent deafness living in the area. For analysis a figure was used based on the totals provided for the questions on deaf children and young people with broken-down figures provided. This figure is shown here and was also used to calculate the average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision.

<sup>54</sup> No TODs and no children were reported in the resource provisions. The resource provisions were reported as under consultation at the time of the survey response.

	Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	TODs in the specialist peripatetic service	TODs in resource provisions (RPs)	TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people	TODs working flexibly	Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision
Hillingdon	320	2.6	2.36	0	0	160:1
Hounslow	255	0.6	7.45	None reported	None reported	85:1
Islington	162	1.6	4	0	0	162:1
Lambeth	347	3.1	1	0	0	174:1
Lewisham	212	3.8	1	0	0	106:1
Merton	139	2	No resource provisions reported	0	0	139:0
Newham	361	4.2	1	0	0	181:1
Redbridge	294	3.9	6.7	0	0	98:1
Richmond and Kingston	260	3.4	2	None reported	0.5	87:1
Southwark	280	4.1	1	None reported	None reported	280:1
Sutton	195	1.4	0.6	None reported	None reported	98:1
Tower Hamlets	499	5.4	6.4	0	0	166:1
Waltham Forest	149	2.1	No data	None reported	None reported	No data
Wandsworth	248	5.4	4	0	0	124:1
Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea	141	4.3	1.2	0	0	141:1
<b>North East</b>						
Darlington	83	1.7	No resource provisions reported	0	0	83:0
Durham	421	3.2	2.9	0	0	211:1
Gateshead	228	3.8	0 <sup>55</sup>	0	0	228:1

<sup>55</sup> The resource provision was reported as no longer active, with no pupils, but not formally closed via consultation at the time of the survey response.

	Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	TODs in the specialist peripatetic service	TODs in resource provisions (RPs)	TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people	TODs working flexibly	Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision
Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland	714	8.1	3	0	0	179:1
Newcastle upon Tyne	230	1.7	5	0	0	77:1
North Tyneside	97	3.2	No resource provisions reported	0	0	97:0
Northumberland	166	6.2	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	166:0
South Tyneside	142	4.6	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	142:0
Sunderland	346	2.2	3	0	0	173:1
<b>North West</b>						
Blackburn with Darwen	133	2.5	2.8	0	0	67:1
Blackpool	132	1.7	No resource provisions reported	1	0	132:0
Bolton	307	4.3	No resource provisions reported	0	0	307:0
Bury	251	4	0.8	0	0	251:1
Cheshire East	338	5.525	1.6	0	0	85:1
Cheshire West and Chester	223	5.1	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	223:0

	<b>Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service</b>	<b>TODs in the specialist peripatetic service</b>	<b>TODs in resource provisions (RPs)</b>	<b>TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people</b>	<b>TODs working flexibly</b>	<b>Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision</b>
Cumberland	115	1.85	No resource provisions reported	0	0	115:0
Halton	101	3	No resource provisions reported	0	0	101:0
Knowsley	75	1.8	No resource provisions reported	0	0	75:0
Lancashire	1,207	11.3	2	None reported	None reported	604:1
Liverpool	316	4.3	3	0	1	158:1
Manchester	794	6.2	2.4	None reported	None reported	397:1
Oldham	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response
Rochdale	166	4.7	2	None reported	None reported	83:1
Salford	265	5.8	No resource provisions reported	0	0	265:0
Sefton	192	2.8	No resource provisions reported	0	0	192:0
St Helens	126	2	No resource provisions reported	0	0	126:0
Stockport	284	7.8	0.8	0	0	284:1
Tameside	223	3.08	0	0	1	223:1
Trafford	259	5.8	No resource provisions reported	0	0	259:0

	Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	TODs in the specialist peripatetic service	TODs in resource provisions (RPs)	TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people	TODs working flexibly	Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision
Warrington	154	2.2	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	154:0
Westmorland and Furness	80	1.8	No resource provisions reported	0	0	80:0
Wigan	203	5.6	No resource provisions reported	0	0	203:0
Wirral	373	4.2	0.4	0	0	373:1
<b>South East</b>						
Berkshire Consortium (West Berkshire, Reading, Bracknell Forest, Wokingham, Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough)	872	12.5	7.05	0	0	174:1
Brighton and Hove	172	3.8	0.8	0	0	172:1
Buckinghamshire	343	5.6	3.2	0	0	114:1
East Sussex	421	4.8	5	0	0	105:1
Hampshire	652	7.5	4.9	0	0	93:1
Isle of Wight	82	2.3	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	82:0
Kent	465	12.4	7.8	1	0	58:1
Medway	208	2	4	0	0	104:1
Milton Keynes	283	3.2	0.4	0	0	283:1
Oxfordshire	563	11.7	2.5	0	0.8	282:1
Portsmouth	142	2.3	None reported	None reported	0.1	71:1
Southampton	210	3	3	0	0	105:1

	Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	TODs in the specialist peripatetic service	TODs in resource provisions (RPs)	TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people	TODs working flexibly	Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision
Surrey	636	10.6	6.4	0	0	127:1
West Sussex	818	4.4	4	0	0	205:1
<b>South West</b>						
Bath & NE Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucester	850	10.2	4.15	None reported	None reported	142:1
Cornwall	297	9.2	No resource provisions reported	0	0	297:0
Devon	732	7.7	1	0	0	732:1
Dorset, and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Pool (BCP)	599	10.8	No resource provisions reported	0	0	599:0
Gloucestershire	365	3.6	No resource provisions reported	0	0	365:0
Plymouth	203	2	3.4	0	0	102:1
Somerset	282	3.6	No resource provisions reported	0	0	282:0
Swindon	184	3.7	1	None reported	None reported	184:1
Torbay	121	1.2	1.1	0	0	61:1
Wiltshire	355	4.8	1.6	0	0	178:1
<b>West Midlands</b>						
Birmingham	1,805	13	8.65	None reported	None reported	361:1
Coventry	393	4.8	1.8	None reported	None reported	197:1
Dudley	265	3.6	2.8	0	0	133:1

	Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service	TODs in the specialist peripatetic service	TODs in resource provisions (RPs)	TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people	TODs working flexibly	Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision
Herefordshire	133	2.6	No resource provisions reported	0	0	133:0
Sandwell	271	5.6	2	None reported	None reported	136:1
Solihull	119	2.1	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	119:0
Staffordshire	803	11.6	No resource provisions reported	0	0	803:0
Stoke-on-Trent	197	3.8	0	0	0.8	197:1
Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire	603	8.2	No resource provisions reported	0	0	603:0
Walsall	291	3.1	0.5	0	0	291:1
Warwickshire	309	6.8	No resource provisions reported	0	0	309:0
Wolverhampton	216	3.9	2	0	0	108:1
Worcestershire	523	4.9	No resource provisions reported	0	0	523:0
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>						
Barnsley	132	3	No resource provisions reported	0	0	132:0
Bradford	900	5.6	8.9	0	0	300:1

	<b>Number of permanently deaf children living in the geographical area covered by the service</b>	<b>TODs in the specialist peripatetic service</b>	<b>TODs in resource provisions (RPs)</b>	<b>TODs mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people</b>	<b>TODs working flexibly</b>	<b>Average population of deaf children covered by each resource provision</b>
Calderdale	201	3.8	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	201:0
City of York	135	2.8	No resource provisions reported	0	0	135:0
Doncaster	316	2.4	3	0	1	158:1
East Riding of Yorkshire	134	2.9	No resource provisions reported	0	0	134:0
Hull	211	1.6	4.9	0	0	106:1
Kirklees	306	4.65	3.75	0	0	153:1
Leeds	1,073	12.4	4.2	0	0	537:1
North East Lincolnshire	97	2	No resource provisions reported	0	0	97:0
North Lincolnshire	142	2.6	1	0	0	142:1
North Yorkshire	419	4	No resource provisions reported	None reported	None reported	419:0
Rotherham	291	5.4	2.6	None reported	None reported	146:1
Sheffield	530	12	12	0	0	106:1
Wakefield	258	4.2	2.6	0	0	129:1