

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001107
Date 3 May 2017

Reduction in Staffing for Deaf Children

Request:

I am writing to express concern about reported reductions to the staffing for deaf children in Wolverhampton and to ask for further information about the impact this will have on deaf children.

Your council's response to an NDCS Freedom of Information request stated that the number of specialist Teachers of the Deaf in 2016/17 was recorded as 3.8 however for 2017/18 this has been listed as Secondary -1.5 and Primary - 1.6 making this a reduction of 0.7 Tod in total.

Though I appreciate the need for spending restraint, I am very concerned to learn of this reduction. The Department for Education has protected the schools budget from which these vital services are funded and Ministers at the Department for Education have made it clear that they expect local authorities to protect services for the most vulnerable children in society .

I would therefore be grateful if you could:

1. Set out the rationale for this reduction and why it is necessary.
[No reduction to primary resource base funding as the .7 is due to recruitment.](#)
2. Indicate the date on which the decision to make this specific reduction was made and by whom. Please include all relevant documentation.
[N/A](#)
3. Set out what assessment your local authority has carried out of the impact this will have on deaf children in Wolverhampton. This assessment should include information about the outcomes already achieved by deaf children in Wolverhampton. You will be aware that this assessment is a legal obligation under the Equality Act 2010.
[A review of SEND with in city is currently taking place.](#)
4. Outline how both parents and deaf young people have been involved in this decision and their views taken into account. You will be aware that this is now a requirement under section 19 of the Children and Families Act.
[Consultation with parent groups and young people will take place as part of the city wide review.](#)

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

5. Outline if any review has taken place on the sufficiency of provision within the area – as set out under section 27 of the Children and Families Act.
[This will be part of the city wide review of SEND.](#)