

# Freedom of Information questions on local authority education provision for children and young people (CYP) with vision impairment: 2019

This questionnaire is being issued by RNIB to every local authority in England, following on from previous requests, to enable the monitoring and protection of education services for children with visual impairment. See accompanying letter for more information.

Please answer the questions in the table provided beginning on page 2. Please read the data entry notes below before completing. We have used this table to aid our interpretation of data returns. Notes on the table for users of accessibility software are also available below.

## Data entry notes

- All questions and answer options are in the first column and all answers should be entered in the second column.
- Some questions have answer options. In these cases, please provide answers next to the relevant options in the format indicated in the question (either numeric or free text).
- Most questions have an additional response option for '**additional information**'. Here, free text responses can be entered if there is any contextual information you wish to provide relevant to the question and figures in your response.

## Accessible table note:

- There are two columns in the table below.
- Questions and answer options are in column 1.
- Column 2 contains space to enter answers where required.
- A dash (-) is used in the second column to indicate no response required because the response is intended in the answer options in the rows below.
- There are blank rows in the table between questions to improve formatting whilst keeping the data in a single table to aid our interpretation of data returns.

## Question and answer table

	<b>Local authority name:</b>  <b>Northumberland County Council</b>
<b>Section 1: Organisation and funding of your local authority Education Vision Impairment (VI) Advisory service</b>	-
<b>QUESTION 1a. How is provision for children and young people with vision impairment funded? (please indicate only <b>one</b> option with an 'x')</b>	-
<b>i)</b> Centrally funded by the LA for specialist support for all pupils with VI	X
<b>ii)</b> Partially delegated to individual schools who purchase specialist support from the LA under 'traded services' arrangement	
<b>iii)</b> Fully delegated to individual schools who purchase specialist support from the LA under 'traded services' arrangement	
<b>iv)</b> Other or additional comments (please give details, free text):	

<b>QUESTION: 1b. Which of the following arrangements applies to the VI service in your LA? (Please indicate 'yes' to all that apply)</b>	-
<b>i)</b> Fully traded to maintained schools (including academies)	
<b>ii)</b> Partially traded to maintained schools (including academies)	
<b>iii)</b> No elements of VI service support are traded to maintained schools (including academies)	X
<b>iv)</b> Fully traded to further education (FE) colleges	

<b>v)</b> Partially traded to further education (FE) colleges	
<b>vi)</b> Is any aspect of direct CYP individual support traded?	
<b>vii)</b> Additional comments, optional (free text)	

<b>QUESTION: 1c. If you answered 'yes' to any traded service arrangement in question 1b, please give further details of the service that is traded and who it is traded to? (free text)</b>	
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<b>Section 2: Structuring of services</b>	-
<b>QUESTION: 2. In the past twelve months, have any changes been made to the way that provision for children and young people with vision impairment is funded and/or organised? (please indicate only one option with an 'x')</b>	-
<b>i) Yes</b>	
<b>ii) No</b>	X

<b>QUESTION: 2b. If 'yes', please give details of changes: (free text)</b>	
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<b>QUESTION: 2c. Were these changes consulted on with parents and VI organisations? (please indicate only one option with an 'x')</b>	-
<b>i) Yes, parents only</b>	
<b>ii) Yes, VI organisations only</b>	
<b>iii) Yes, both parents and VI organisations</b>	
<b>iv) No, parents and VI organisations were not consulted</b>	

<b>QUESTION: 2d. Any additional information on the consultation? (optional) (free text)</b>	
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<b>QUESTION: 2e. Are there any current or proposed reviews of the VI service that will affect the way it is organised, managed or funded (including moving to/from a traded services arrangement), or are likely to affect the way that support for CYP with VI is provided or funded? (please indicate only one option with an 'x')</b>	-
<b>i) Yes</b>	
<b>ii) No</b>	
<b>iii) Don't know</b>	X

<b>QUESTION: 2f. Any additional information? (optional) (free text)</b>	
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<b>QUESTION: 3a. Please provide overall VI service budget (including staff, equipment and training): (please enter a monetary value)</b>	-
<b>i) Budget for 2017/18</b>	£118,083
<b>ii) Budget for 2018/19</b>	£118,083
<b>iii) Budget for 2019/20</b>	£85,073
<b>iv) Additional information, optional (free text)</b>	Two members of VI team have reduced working hours.

<b>QUESTION: 3b. If the budget above is shared with another service or cannot be separated from the sensory budget, please state what the budget encompasses here: (free text)</b>	These costs are for staffing only. Some training from Sensory Support budget
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<b>QUESTION: 4a. What percentage of the High Needs Funding budget is spent on the overall VI service</b>	0.3%
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<b>budget?</b> (please enter a percentage value)	
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<b>QUESTION: 4b. Any additional information?</b> (optional) (free text)	
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<b>Section 3: Number of CYP on the VI service caseload and support available</b>	-
<b>QUESTION: 5a. Please give the number of children and young people with vision impairment on the VI service <u>active caseload</u> (i.e. those supported by the VI service and not included in Q6a) for the following categories</b> (number ranges in each category represent age. Please enter numerical values):	-
<b>Total: all ages:</b>	234
Total: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (0-5 years)	37
Total: Year 1 to Year 6	111
Total: Year 7 to Year 11	61
Total: Year 12 to Year 13	19
Total: Above Year 13	6
<b>EHCP Total: all ages:</b>	107
Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP): EYFS (0-5 years)	11
EHCP: Year 1 to Year 6	41
EHCP: Year 7 to Year 11	40
EHCP: Year 12 to Year 13	9
EHCP: Above Year 13	6
<b>SEN Support total: all ages:</b>	77
Special Education Need (SEN) Support: EYFS (0-5 years)	4
SEN Support: Year 1 to Year 6	50
SEN Support: Year 7 to Year 11	19
SEN Support: Year 12 to Year 13	4
SEN Support: Above Year 13	0

<b>Not yet assessed/categorised total: all ages:</b>	Unknown for all below
Not yet assessed/categorised: EYFS (0-5 years)	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 1 to Year 6	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 7 to Year 11	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 12 to Year 13	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Above Year 13	
<b>Other total (please state any other groups which do not fit the above categories, optional): all ages:</b>	
Other: EYFS (0-5 years)	
Other: Year 1 to Year 6	
Other: Year 7 to Year 11	
Other: Year 12 to Year 13	
Other: Above Year 13	

<b>QUESTION: 5b. Any additional information? (optional) (free text)</b>	
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<b>QUESTION: 6a. Please give the number of children and young people with vision impairment, <u>known to the VI service</u> but not receiving direct support from the LA service for the following categories: (e.g. who are 'advice on request' or being monitored only, who are in a VI resourced or independent school, or whose family home is in the LA but who are being educated in another authority)(These are in <u>addition</u> to CYP included in Q5a): (number ranges in each category represent age. Please enter numerical values)</b>	-
<b>Total: all ages:</b>	School to Contact 50

Total: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (0-5 years)	1
Total: Year 1 to Year 6	16
Total: Year 7 to Year 11	22
Total: Year 12 to Year 13	10
Total: Above Year 13	1
<b>EHCP Total: all ages:</b>	<b>23</b>
Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP): EYFS (0-5 years)	0
EHCP: Year 1 to Year 6	4
EHCP: Year 7 to Year 11	14
EHCP: Year 12 to Year 13	4
EHCP: Above Year 13	1
<b>SEN Support total: all ages:</b>	<b>17</b>
Special Education Need (SEN) Support: EYFS (0-5 years)	0
SEN Support: Year 1 to Year 6	8
SEN Support: Year 7 to Year 11	7
SEN Support: Year 12 to Year 13	2
SEN Support: Above Year 13	0
<b>Not yet assessed/categorised total: all ages:</b>	<b>Unknown for all below</b>
Not yet assessed/categorised: EYFS (0-5 years)	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 1 to Year 6	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 7 to Year 11	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 12 to Year 13	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Above Year 13	
<b>Other total (please state any other groups which do not fit the above categories, optional): all ages:</b>	
Other: EYFS (0-5 years)	
Other: Year 1 to Year 6	
Other: Year 7 to Year 11	
Other: Year 12 to Year 13	
Other: Above Year 13	

<b>QUESTION: 6b. Any additional information? (optional) (free text)</b>	
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<b>QUESTION: 7a. Of the children and young people on the active caseload, please give the number with vision impairment with and without other SEN/disabilities/additional complex needs:</b> (number ranges in each category represent age. Please enter numerical values)	-
<b>Total: all ages:</b>	89
Total: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (0-5 years)	11
Total: Year 1 to Year 6	35
Total: Year 7 to Year 11	28
Total: Year 12 to Year 13	10
Total: Above Year 13	5
<b>EHCP Total: all ages:</b>	67
Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP): EYFS (0-5 years)	4
EHCP: Year 1 to Year 6	25
EHCP: Year 7 to Year 11	25
EHCP: Year 12 to Year 13	8
EHCP: Above Year 13	5
<b>SEN Support total: all ages:</b>	10
Special Education Need (SEN) Support: EYFS (0-5 years)	2
SEN Support: Year 1 to Year 6	6
SEN Support: Year 7 to Year 11	2
SEN Support: Year 12 to Year 13	0
SEN Support: Above Year 13	0
<b>Not yet assessed/categorised total: all ages:</b>	Unknown for all below
Not yet assessed/categorised: EYFS (0-5 years)	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 1 to Year 6	

Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 7 to Year 11	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Year 12 to Year 13	
Not yet assessed/categorised: Above Year 13	
<b>Other total (please state any other groups which do not fit the above categories, optional): all ages:</b>	
Other: EYFS (0-5 years)	
Other: Year 1 to Year 6	
Other: Year 7 to Year 11	
Other: Year 12 to Year 13	
Other: Above Year 13	

<b>QUESTION: 7b. Any additional information? (optional) (free text)</b>	
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<b>QUESTION: 8a. Of the children and young people on the active caseload, please give the number educated in each of the settings below where applicable: (please enter numeric values)</b>	-
<b>i) Mainstream school</b>	162
<b>ii) Mainstream with VI resource provision</b>	0
<b>iii) Mainstream academy</b>	41
<b>iv) Special school academy</b>	0
<b>v) Maintained special school for pupils with VI</b>	0
<b>vi) Non-maintained special school for pupils with VI</b>	0
<b>vii) Other type of special school (e.g. PD, SLD, HI) (maintained &amp; non-maintained)</b>	Unknown
<b>viii) Other type of setting (e.g. hospital school, home educated)</b>	Unknown
<b>ix) If other type of setting, please write here (free text)</b>	Preschool 25 Further Education 6

<b>QUESTION: 8b. Any additional information? (optional) (free text)</b>	
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<b>QUESTION: 9. In which of the following settings does the VI service support early years children (i.e. 3 years and under)? (Please indicate 'yes' to all that apply)</b>	-
<b>i) Within the child's home</b>	Yes
<b>ii) In pre-school/early years settings</b>	Yes
<b>iii) School settings (e.g. nursery class in mainstream or special school)</b>	Yes
<b>iv) In settings where the child is cared for by a childminder (outside of their home)</b>	Unknown
<b>v) Other settings (please give details, free text)</b>	Unknown

<b>QUESTION: 10a. What criteria does the VI service use for allocating levels of support? (Please indicate 'yes' to all that apply)</b>	-
<b>i) NatSIP Eligibility Framework for Scoring Support Levels (2015)</b>	X
<b>ii) Locally developed criteria</b>	
<b>iii) Other arrangement (please give details)</b>	

<b>QUESTION: 10b. Does your LA require a CYP with VI to meet any of the following criteria before they will be considered for assessment for an EHCP? (Please indicate 'yes' to all that apply)</b>	-
<b>i) They must meet a specified level of severity/visual acuity</b>	No
<b>ii) They must have additional SEND</b>	No
<b>iii) They must be failing to make the expected level of progress</b>	No
<b>iv) They are expected to attend a special school</b>	No

<b>v) Other – please specify: (free text)</b>	
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<b>QUESTION: 11. How many children or young people with VI have had their support reduced in the last 12 months? Please use reasons for reduction in support as listed below:</b> (please indicate ‘yes’ to all that apply in the first row and indicate number in the second row for all those where ‘yes’ has been entered)	-Unknown Eligibility Criteria carried out on an annual basis and provision according to need
<b>i) Review of SEN support or EHCP Plan (yes/no)</b>	
<b>ii) Review of SEN support or EHCP Plan (if yes, please enter numeric values)</b>	
<b>iii) Positive change in management of vision impairment and improved independence (yes/no)</b>	
<b>iv) Positive change in management of vision impairment and improved independence (if yes, please enter numeric values)</b>	
<b>v) Restructure of service delivery model, i.e. more remote support, train the trainer etc. (yes/no)</b>	
<b>vi) Restructure of service delivery model, i.e. more remote support, train the trainer etc. (if yes, please enter numeric values)</b>	
<b>vii) Service capacity (yes/no)</b>	
<b>viii) Service capacity (if yes, please enter numeric values)</b>	
<b>ix) Other (yes/no)</b>	
<b>x) Other (if yes, please enter numeric values)</b>	
<b>xi) Please explain if other: (free text)</b>	According to Eligibility Criteria and need

<b>QUESTION: 12. What is the total number of children and young</b>	<b>4</b>
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people who use (or in the case of EYFS children, are expected to use) braille as their sole or main literacy medium? (please enter numeric values)	
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<b>QUESTION: 13. Are there any groups of children and young people with VI that are NOT currently supported by the VI service?</b> (Please give details for all that apply)	-
<b>i) Specific age groups</b> (please give details)	
<b>ii) Children/YP in specific types of setting</b> e.g. academies, further education etc. (please give details)	
<b>iii) Children/YP with complex needs</b> (please give details)	
<b>iv) Any other groups</b> (please give details)	School to Contact children

<b>Section 4: VI service staffing</b>	-
<b>QUESTION: 14. Which (if any) of the following qualifications are held by the person with responsibility for strategic management of the VI service?</b> (Please indicate 'yes' to all that apply)	-
<b>i) Qualified teacher of pupils with vision impairment (QTVI)</b> (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in VI)	Team Leader
<b>ii) Qualified teacher of the Deaf (TOD)</b> (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in HI)	Service Manager
<b>iii) Qualified teacher of pupils with Multi-sensory Impairment (QTMSI)</b> (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in MSI)	
<b>iv) Other qualifications</b> (if yes please give details, free text)	MA Deaf Education

<b>QUESTION: 15. This question is broken into three sections. Please give the numbers of teachers employed directly by the VI service (this includes peripatetic/advisory teachers, school-based teachers, and VI service manager if s/he has a caseload) for the categories that follow: (please enter numeric values)</b>	-
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<b>QUESTION: 15a. Please give the full time equivalent (FTE) number of:</b>	-
<b>i) QTVI with mandatory qualification (MQ) (VI)</b>	0.6
<b>ii) In training for MQ (VI)</b>	0.8
<b>iii) Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) who will begin training within 2 years</b>	0
<b>iv) Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) not in or due to begin training within 2 years</b>	1.0
<b>v) QTMSI with MQ (MSI)</b>	1.0
<b>vi) QTVI and QTMSI MQ (holds both qualifications)</b>	0
<b>vii) QTVI vacancies currently advertised</b>	0
<b>viii) QTVI vacancies – advertised but no suitable applicants</b>	0

<b>QUESTION: 15b. Please give the total number of posts (headcount) for:</b>	-
<b>i) QTVI with mandatory qualification (MQ) (VI)</b>	1
<b>ii) In training for MQ (VI)</b>	1
<b>iii) Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) who will begin training within 2 years</b>	1
<b>iv) Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) not in or due to begin training within 2 years</b>	0
<b>v) QTMSI with MQ (MSI)</b>	1

<b>vi) QTVI and QTMSI MQ (holds both qualifications)</b>	0
<b>vii) QTVI vacancies currently advertised</b>	0
<b>viii) QTVI vacancies – advertised but no suitable applicants</b>	0

<b>QUESTION: 15c. Please give the total number of posts that are temporary contracts (not permanent roles) for:</b>	-
<b>i) QTVI with mandatory qualification (MQ) (VI)</b>	0
<b>ii) In training for MQ (VI)</b>	0
<b>iii) Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) who will begin training within 2 years</b>	0
<b>iv) Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) not in or due to begin training within 2 years</b>	0
<b>v) QTMSI with MQ (MSI)</b>	0
<b>vi) QTVI and QTMSI MQ (holds both qualifications)</b>	0
<b>vii) QTVI vacancies currently advertised</b>	0
<b>viii) QTVI vacancies – advertised but no suitable applicants</b>	0

<b>QUESTION: 16. What is the average time from referral to VI service and initial visit? (please give estimation if exact time is unknown) (number of weeks)</b>	Varies according to length of time to receive consent forms
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<b>QUESTION: 17. Please give details of the FTE of any other staff employed by the VI service by category (not already included in question 15). This includes staff who are employed directly, externally commissioned or bought in from another team within the LA:</b>	-
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(please enter numeric values) (please do not include mobility and habilitation officers)	
<b>i)</b> Resource technicians FTE (for production of accessible materials)	0
<b>ii)</b> ICT support technicians FTE	0
<b>iii)</b> Dedicated early years staff FTE	0
<b>iv)</b> Family support workers FTE	0
<b>v)</b> Admin/secretarial FTE	0.6fte
<b>vi)</b> Teaching Assistants	0
<b>vii)</b> Other role FTE	0
<b>viii)</b> Details of other role(s) if applicable (free text)	

<b>QUESTION: 18a. Please give the numbers of teaching assistants (TAs) in your LA who are providing support to pupils with vision impairment, by employment arrangement as listed below (this includes service and school-based staff where known):</b> (please enter numeric values)	-
<b>i)</b> Number employed and recruited directly by VI service – centrally based/peripatetic	0
<b>ii)</b> Number employed and recruited directly by VI service – school-based	0
<b>iii)</b> Number employed and recruited directly by schools and supported by VI service	0
<b>iv)</b> Number employed and recruited directly by schools with no involvement from VI service	unknown
<b>v)</b> Number employed with other arrangement	0
<b>vi)</b> Other arrangement (please give details, free text)	n/a

<b>QUESTION 18b. Please indicate if the service is aware that TAs are</b>	unknown
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employed by schools but information on them is not retained and/or the service is aware of other TAs that the service does not hold information on: (Please indicate 'yes' if this applies)	
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<b>Section 5: Redress</b>	-
<b>QUESTION 19a. How many complaints about the VI service have entered the local authority's formal complaints process? If none have entered the formal process, please enter '0' (number)</b>	0
<b>QUESTION 19b. If you have any additional information or points to add around the complaints recording process or figures, please state here: (free text)</b>	

<b>Section 6: Registers</b>	
<b>QUESTION: 20. Who in the LA holds the vision impairment register for children and young people who are registered sight impaired or severely sight impaired? (please indicate only one option with an 'x')</b>	-
<b>i) Social care sensory team</b>	X
<b>ii) Social care children's team</b>	X
<b>iii) Local society for blind people/sight loss society</b>	
<b>iv) Other</b>	
<b>v) If other, please give details (free text)</b>	