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## Education & Skills

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Customer reference:  
Our reference: REQ07704

05 November 2020

Dear ██████████

### Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request for information relating to visual impairment services.

You have requested the following information:

#### **Local Authority Name**

Coventry City Council

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

**1a) How is provision for children and young people with vision impairment funded?  
(Please indicate only one option with an 'x')**

<b>Centrally funded by the LA for specialist support for all pupils with VI</b>	X
<b>Partially delegated to individual schools who purchase specialist support from the LA under 'traded services' arrangement</b>	
<b>Fully delegated to individual schools who purchase specialist support from the LA under 'traded services' arrangement</b>	
<b>Other or additional comments (free text)</b>	

**1b) If you answered that your funding is fully or partially delegated, please give further details of funding arrangement (free text)**

N/A
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**Section 2: Structuring of services**

**2a) 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')**

Yes	
No	X

**2b) If 'Yes' then please give details of the changes that have been made: (free text)**

N/A
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**2c) Were the above changes consulted with parents and VI organisations? (Please indicated only one option with an 'x')**

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

N/A

**2d) Any additional information on the consultation? (optional free text)**

N/A
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**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')**

Yes	
No	X
Don't know	

**2f) Any additional information? (optional free text)**

N/A
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**3a) Please provide overall VI service budget (including staff, equipment and training). If you provided the past budgets in a previous FOI, you only need to provide the latest year. (Please enter numerical values)**

<b>Budget for 2018/19</b>	£633,611
<b>Budget for 2019/20</b>	£667,430
<b>Budget for 2020/21</b>	£683,402

**Additional information is optional (free text):**

N/A
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**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:**

N/A
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**Section 3: Number of CYP on the VI service caseload and support available**

**4a) Please give the number of children and young people with vision impairment on the VI service active caseload for the following categories (i.e. those supported by the VI services and not included in Q5a) (Please enter numerical values)**

<b><i>EHCP total (all ages)</i></b>	77
<b><i>SEN Support total (all ages)</i></b>	115
<b><i>Not yet assessed/categorised total (all ages)</i></b>	4
<b><i>Other totals, please state any other groups which do not fit the above categories in additional information space (optional/ all ages)</i></b>	0
<b><i>Total (all ages and categories)</i></b>	196

**4b) Any additional information (optional free text)**

N/A
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5a) Excluding the children and young people with vision impairment counted in question 4a please give the number of children and young people with vision impairment, known to the VI service but not receiving direct support from the LA service. This could include out of county placements, advice on request, home educated, independent school etc. (Please enter numerical values)

<b>EHCP Total (all ages)</b>	2
<b>SEN Support total (all ages)</b>	
<b>Not yet assessed/categorised total (all ages)</b>	
<b>Other totals, please state any other groups which do not fit the above categories in additional information space (optional/ all ages)</b>	
<b>Total (all ages and categories)</b>	2

5b) Any additional information? (optional free text)

N/A
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6) In which of the following settings does the VI service support early years children (i.e. children who have not started in reception)? (Please indicate 'x' to all that apply)

<b>Within the child's home</b>	X
<b>In pre- school/ early years settings</b>	X
<b>School settings (e.g. nursery class in mainstream or special school)</b>	X
<b>In settings where the child is cared for by a childminder (outside of their home)</b>	X
<b>Other settings (please give details, free text)</b>	

7a) What criteria does the VI service use for allocating levels of support? (Please indicate 'x' to all that apply)

<b>NatSIP Eligibility Framework for Scoring Support Levels (2015)</b>	X
<b>Locally developed criteria</b>	
<b>Other arrangement (please give details, free text)</b>	

7b) 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 'x' to all that apply)

<b>They must meet a specified level of severity/visual acuity</b>	X
<b>They must have additional SEND</b>	X
<b>They must be failing to make the expected level of progress</b>	X
<b>They are expected to attend a special school</b>	X
<b>Other – please specify: (free text)</b>	

- 8) **What is the total number of children and young people who use (or in the case of EYFS children, are expected to use) braille as their sole or main literacy medium? (please enter numerical value)**

7
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- 9) **Are there any groups of children and young people with VI that are NOT currently supported by the VI service? (Please give details for all that apply)**

<b>Specific age groups</b>	
<b>Children/YP in specific types of setting e.g. academies, further education etc.</b>	
<b>Children/YP with complex needs</b>	
<b>Any other groups</b>	

N/A

**Section 4: VI service staffing**

- 10) **Which (if any) of the following qualifications are held by the person with responsibility for strategic management of the VI service? (Please indicate 'x' to all that apply)**

<b>Qualified teacher of pupils with vision impairment (QTVI (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in VI))</b>	X
<b>Qualified teacher of the Deaf (TOD) (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in HI)</b>	X
<b>Qualified teacher of pupils with Multi-sensory Impairment (QTMSI (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in MSI)</b>	
<b>Other qualifications (if yes please give details, free text)</b>	
BSL Stage 2 Qualification	

- 11a) **Please give the full time equivalent (FTE) number of teachers employed directly by the VI service for the categories that follow. (This includes peripatetic/advisory teachers, school-based teachers, and VI service manager if s/he has a caseload): (Please enter numerical values)**

<b>QTVI with mandatory qualification (MQ) (VI)</b>	4.4
<b>In training for MQ (VI)</b>	
<b>Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) who will begin training within 2 years</b>	
<b>Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) not in or due to begin training within 2 years</b>	
<b>QTMSI with MQ (MSI)</b>	
<b>QTVI and QTMSI MQ (holds both qualifications)</b>	
<b>QTVI vacancies currently advertised</b>	1.0
<b>QTVI vacancies – advertised but no suitable applicants</b>	

**11b) Please give the total number of posts (headcount) employed directly by the VI service for the categories that follow. (This includes peripatetic/advisory teachers, school-based teachers, and VI service manager if s/he has a caseload): (Please enter numerical values)**

<b>QTVI with mandatory qualification (MQ) (VI)</b>	5
<b>In training for MQ (VI)</b>	
<b>Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) who will begin training within 2 years</b>	
<b>Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) not in or due to begin training within 2 years</b>	
<b>QTMSI with MQ (MSI)</b>	
<b>QTVI and QTMSI MQ (holds both qualifications)</b>	
<b>QTVI vacancies currently advertised</b>	1
<b>QTVI vacancies – advertised but no suitable applicants</b>	

**12) What is the average time from referral to VI service and initial visit? (please give estimation if exact time is unknown)**

3 weeks
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**13) Please give details of the FTE of any other staff employed by the VI service by category. This includes staff who are employed directly, externally commissioned or bought in from another team within the LA: (please do not include mobility and habilitation officers) (Please enter numerical values)**

<b>Resource technicians FTE (for production of accessible materials)</b>	2.4
<b>ICT support technicians FTE</b>	
<b>Dedicated early years staff FTE</b>	
<b>Family support workers FTE</b>	
<b>Admin/secretarial FTE</b>	1.0
<b>Other role FTE</b>	0.2
<b>Details of other role(s) if applicable (free text)</b>	
Unattached sessional lecturer	

**14) Please give the FTE staff number of teaching assistants (TAs) employed directly by the VI service who are providing support to pupils with vision impairment. If no TAs are directly employed please write '0': (Please enter numerical values)**

<b>Number of TAs by full time equivalent (FTE)</b>	0.8
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## Section 5: Registers

16) **Who in the LA holds the register for children and young people who are registered sight impaired or severely sight impaired? (Please indicate only one option with an 'x')**

<b>Children's disability team (or similar), Social Care</b>	X
<b>Education/SEND/sensory team (or similar)</b>	
<b>Local society for blind people/sight loss or sensory society (on behalf of local authority)</b>	
<b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please give details (free text)</b>	

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If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours sincerely

**Project Support & Operational Finance Assistant**