FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 983/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request/Response:

1. Organisation and funding of your local authority Education Vision Impairment (VI) Advisory service
   a. How is provision for children and young people with vision impairment funded?

      Answer: This is funded through the high needs funding grant.

   If any aspect of service is traded please answer question b. below:

   b. Please provide details of traded services:

      Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service traded</th>
<th>Who the Service is traded to</th>
<th>Total budget traded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Impairment Services – assessments and visits</td>
<td>Lincolnshire County Council</td>
<td>Variable - Spot Purchase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Structuring of Services
   a. 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?

      Answer: No - commissioned service arrangement.

   b. If ‘yes’ to above please give details of changes.

      Answer: Not Applicable

   c. Were these changes consulted on with parents and VI organisations?
d. If ‘no’ to above what was the reason for this decision?

Answer: Not Applicable

e. Please provide details of the overall VI service budget (including staff, equipment and training) for:

i. 2017/18

Answer: A budget of £85,000 is ringfenced for specialist services including staffing, equipment and training. However this is a demand led service.

ii. 2016/17

Answer: £65,600.

f. What percentage of the High Needs Funding budget is spent on the overall VI service budget?

Answer: Variable as spot purchase arrangements. Currently 2.3%

3. Number of children and young people (CYP) on the VI service caseload –Currently 12 referrals. Services commissioned through Lincolnshire County Council who can provide up to date details as children drop off.

a. Please provide the number of children and young people with vision impairment that the local authority has on their records for the following categories:

Answer: 12, 8 with EHCP, 4 SEN support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Statement or EHCP</th>
<th>SEN Support</th>
<th>Not yet assessed / categorised</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17 - 19</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20 - 25</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. If ‘Other’ to above please explain.

Answer: Not Applicable

c. What is the ‘criteria’ or how is it determined which children and young people with vision impairment receive an EHCP?

Answer: An individual assessment of a child’s needs is undertaken to determine that special educational provision is required in accordance with an EHCP. In doing so the assessment considers the nature and extent of needs and how provision has met such needs.
d. How many children or young people with vision impairment have had their support reduced in the last 12 months?

Answer: None

e. How many of these children had the decision taken after reviewing their EHC plan?

Answer: Not Applicable

f. Please give reasons why support has been reduced.

Answer: Not Applicable

g. 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?

Answer: In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email message acts as a Refusal Notice.

We can confirm that we hold the information however we are unable to supply it as we consider this information to be exempt due to the low number of individuals identified.

The Council is relying on Section 40(2) – personal information in that it believes the exemption applies because the information is personal information and we believe that disclosure would not be fair or lawful because it would breach the first data protection principle as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. We consider that these individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

4. VI service staffing

a. Please provide details of the structure of the team/staff supporting children and young people with vision impairment including job title, qualification and full time equivalent. This includes teachers employed directly by the VI service (peripatetic/advisory and school-based teachers and VI service manager NOT including teaching assistants).

Answer: *Rutland County Council does not hold this information. Spot purchased from Lincolnshire County Council Services who can provide these details.

b. Please provide information regarding the case load of each QTVI:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full time equivalent</th>
<th>Number on active case load</th>
<th>Number on total case load</th>
<th>Average waiting time to be seen for initial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
c. Please give the numbers of teaching assistants (TAs) in your LA who are providing support to pupils with vision impairment (this includes service and school-based staff):

   i. Employed and recruited directly by VI service – centrally based/peripatetic
      Answer: Not Applicable

   ii. Employed and recruited directly by VI service – school based
      Answer: Not Applicable

   iii. Employed and recruited directly by schools and supported by VI service
      Answer: Not Applicable

   iv. Employed and recruited directly by schools with no involvement from VI service
      Answer: Not Applicable

   v. Other arrangement (please give details):
      Answer: Not Applicable

   
d. What type of training is routinely provided to non-specialist education staff who are supporting a VI pupil(s) within your LA?
      Answer: Not Applicable
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special (non-VI) school teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early years/nursery staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAs providing direct support to VI pupil(s), who are employed by the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAs employed by the VI service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Habilitation support

a. Does the local authority offer Habilitation support for children and young people? By habilitation we mean support and training in orientation, mobility and independent living skills.

   Answer: Rutland County Council does not hold this information. Services are commissioned through Lincolnshire County Council.

b. If ‘no’ to above please explain why, and what support is put in place to meet habilitation needs?

   Answer: N/A

c. Who in your LA provides mobility and habilitation skills training to children and young people with VI (please give number as full time equivalent):

   i. Qualified habilitation officer(s) employed centrally by the VI service

   Answer: Not Applicable

   ii. Qualified mobility/rehabilitation officer(s) employed centrally by the VI service

   Answer: Not Applicable

   iii. Qualified habilitation officer(s) externally commissioned from another organisation

   Answer: Not Applicable
iv. Qualified habilitation officer(s) bought in from another team within the LA (e.g. social care)

Answer: Not Applicable

v. Qualified mobility/rehabilitation officer(s) bought in from another team within the LA (e.g. social care)

Answer: Not Applicable

d. How many pupils are currently receiving mobility/habilitation training or waiting to be assessed?

Answer: 0

6. Redress

a. How many complaints have been made to the local authority by parents of VI children over support provided for their child between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2018?

Answer: 0

b. How many of these have progressed to tribunal?

Answer: 0

7. Registers

a. Who in the LA holds the vision impaired register for children and young people who are blind or partially sighted?

Answer: Registers would be recorded within individual EHCPs within the Local Authority records.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Data Protection Officer, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Business Support Team
Rutland County Council