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Stewart Maxwell MSP  
Convener  
Education and Culture Committee  
T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP



June 2015

*Dear Stewart,*

**EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE – ATTAINMENT OF PUPILS WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENT**

At the Committee's evidence session on 26 May 2015, I agreed to provide you with information in reference to a couple of questions raised during the session. Please see the attached Annex A which responds to each of the questions raised.

**ALASDAIR ALLAN**

Committee Question	SG Response
<p>Given the large proportion of pupils with a sensory impairment who go on to further education, has there been any further work on the transitions beyond college to whether those students go on to work or university? Do we have any statistics beyond that transition from school? –</p> <p><b>Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Lab)</b></p>	<p><b><u>1. Further Education – Students with Sensory Impairment</u></b></p> <p>Number of sensory impaired students</p> <p>In 2013-14, there were 1,942 students with a sensory impairment in the college sector which accounts for 0.8% of all students.</p> <p>Total student headcount is up slightly in 2013-14 from 2012-13 but down from 2011-12. This is mirrored in the number of sensory impaired students in the sector during that time (1,942 in 2013-14, 1,867 in 2012-13 and 2,152 in 2011-12). However, during that time the proportion of students with a Sensory Impairment remained unchanged at 0.8%.</p> <p>To get a sense of the numbers of students from school that progress onto college - the <i>SQA Equality Mainstreaming report</i> shows that in 2013, 17,263 candidates requested an assessment arrangement of which 2,961 had a sensory impairment.</p> <p><b><u>2. FE Support provided to students with sensory impairments</u></b></p> <p>In 2013-14, 385 students with a sensory impairment accessed bursary funds totalling just over £1m. Of that £1m, £384k was awarded to students with sensory impairments through the 'additional support for learning allowances' (funded through SFC bursary funds) to support them in getting to college and fully taking part in their college course. These funds are designed to cover the additional travel and study costs faced by students with additional education needs. Additional support for learning funds are not means tested.</p> <p>Colleges, via the SFC, have access to an 'Extended Learning Support' (ELS) ring-fenced fund, this year at a record total of £50m, to provide specialised support for individual students with specific educational support needs. The fund allows colleges to provide support measures for students that require extra resources such as additional staff or expenditure. The ELS fund was previously part of the total college budget and is, for the first time, in 2015-16, a visible</p>



sum to the sector.

When colleges claim Extended Learning Support for a student they must complete a Personal Learning Support Plan (PLSP) for that student. This plan crucially **ensures that students are central to the support being provided and that there must be clear goals attached to the education.**

If a college is not claiming ELS the college must still comply with the legal requirements set upon them and the SFC consider the PLSP guidance to be good guidance for all students regardless of whether the college claims ELS or not.

SFC are currently undertaking a sector led review of ELS across the sector in partnership with colleges and other stakeholder groups. The review will conclude in May 2016 and will inform future outcome expectations.

### **3. Outcomes of college students with sensory impairments**

In 2013-14 the number of sensory impaired students who successfully completed their college course was 83.0% up from 81.0% in 2012-13. The number of sensory impaired students who withdrew from their college course in 2013-14 was 6.7% down from 8.4% in 2012-13.

We do not hold data on final destinations of students leaving college.

We do hold data on the number of pupils leaving school with a sensory impairment:

- Hearing impaired pupils going into employment was 12.3%
- Visual impaired pupils going into employment was 8.9%
- Combined figure for sensory impaired pupils going into employment was 10.6%
- Pupils going into employment with no ASN was 21.0%

### **4. Higher Education**

In addition to general living cost support entitlement, eligible students studying a course of higher education at college and university are entitled to Disabled Students Allowance (DSA), awarded by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). This is non-income assessed; the amount a

	<p>student is awarded is dependent upon their needs.</p> <p>The group of students with a disability type which resulted in the highest average amount of DSA support was those with a hearing impairment. There were 95 students with a hearing impairment, receiving over half a million of pounds support at £5,740 per student. There were 85 students with a visual impairment receiving DSA support (average of £4,620 per student) and a further 75 who had a physical or motor impairment (average of £4,520 per student).</p> <p>Information on disability is only captured for those students claiming DSA support from SAAS. The nature and severity of the disability is based on an assessment of needs by a relevant qualified person, and may not reflect the disability type the student submits as part of their original application. There are many students in Higher Education who may be sufficiently supported through their college or university and therefore, do not need to claim DSA. There are others who, for a variety of reasons, choose not to disclose their disability. There may also be students who are not eligible to claim DSA from SAAS but who are being supported through another funding body and/or their college or university. Therefore, the number of students with disabilities in Higher Education will be higher than the number recorded here.</p> <p><b>(Source: Higher Education Student Support in Scotland 2013-14)</b></p>
<p>I have one final question before I bring in Mary Scanlon. Earlier you mentioned the statistics about the increase in attainment for those who have a sensory impairment. Could you give us a comparison between the statistics that you gave earlier and those for the general population as a whole? Are the figures that show the improvement among those who have a sensory impairment greater or less than, or about the same as, the increases among the rest of the</p>	<p>Based on the 2012-13 data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The average tariff score for all leavers was 401</li> <li>• The average tariff score for pupils with a hearing impairment was 289 (difference of 112)</li> <li>• The average tariff score for pupils with a visual impairment was 241 (difference of 160)</li> </ul> <p>While we recognise that there is more to do, overall things are improving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The average tariff scores for pupils with a hearing impairment has increased by 28% since the 2009-10 data</li> <li>• The average tariff scores for pupils with a visual impairment has increased by 50% since the 2009-10 data</li> <li>• The average tariff scores for all leavers has increased by 9% since the 2009-10 data</li> </ul> <p>The full data on attainment and leaver destinations of pupils with a sensory impairment and those pupils with no ASN is available in <b>Annex B</b>.</p>



<p>population?</p> <p>If you do not have the figures to hand, minister, perhaps you could write to the committee with a comparison of those who have a visual impairment, those who have a hearing impairment and the general population. Although it is welcome that there is an increase in attainment in the particular groups, it would be nice to see a comparison so that we can see whether they are improving at a faster or slower rate than the general population. –</p> <p><b>The Convener (Stewart Maxwell)</b></p>	
<p>The second part of my question was about the development check that children get between 24 and 36 months. Are sensory impairments included in that check? –</p> <p><b>Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con)</b></p>	<p>The Scottish Child Health Programme was introduced in 2005 (<a href="http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2005/04/15151325/13269">http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2005/04/15151325/13269</a>), supplemented in 2011 by A New Look at Hall 4 (<a href="http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/01/11133654/0">http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/01/11133654/0</a>), to provide proactive care and support to all children to help them attain their health and development potential. Further guidance was published in December 2012 (<a href="http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2012/12/1478">www.gov.scot/Publications/2012/12/1478</a>) which introduced a new health contact at 27-30 months and set out the core issues which should be covered during the review and the core data items which should be recoded. Vision and hearing are included in the national minimum dataset. Work is underway to introduce a new health review contact at 13-15 months.</p> <p>Statistics on the 27-30 month review published by Information Statistics Division (ISD) show that in the year 2013/14, 43,102 reviews were carried out, of which 460 (1.1%) identified a concern newly suspected for hearing and 441 (1.0%) for vision. More statistical information on the 27-30 month reviews can be found in the data tables on developmental assessments at <a href="http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Child-Health/Publications/2014-12-16/Development-assessment-">http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Child-Health/Publications/2014-12-16/Development-assessment-</a></p>

1314.xlsx and in the Publication report –  
<https://isdscotland.scot.nhs.uk/Health-Topics/Child-Health/Publications/2014-12-16/2014-12-16-Child-Health-27m-review-Report.pdf?71035403014>.

Source: Supplementary tables for 'Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living'

Attainment of leavers by additional support need, 2012/13

2012/13	Percentage attaining - Any subject			
	1+ at L3 or better	1+ at L4 or better	1+ at L5 or better	1+ at L6 or better
Hearing Impairment	93.1	88.4	70.4	39.2
No Hearing Impairment	98.5	96.2	82.4	55.8
Visual Impairment	93.8	88.7	62.7	33.9
No Visual Impairment	98.5	96.2	82.5	55.8
ASN	95.5	88.1	59.1	28.1
No ASN	99.1	97.7	86.9	61.1
Total	98.5	96.1	82.4	55.7

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels:	
Level 7	Advanced Higher at A-C
Level 6	Higher at A-C
Level 5	Intermediate 2 at A-C; National 5 at A-C; Standard Grade (Credit)
Level 4	Intermediate 1 at A-C; National 4; Standard Grade (General)
Level 3	Access 3 cluster; National 3; Standard Grade (Foundation)
Level 2	Access 2 cluster; National 2

**Tariff scores for leavers from secondary and special schools with sensory impairments and total leavers**

		Number of leavers	Average Tariff score	Difference from total average
2009/10	Hearing impairment	78	225	-143
2009/10	Visual impairment	103	161	-207
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54,641</b>	<b>368</b>	
2010/11	<b>Hearing impairment</b>	100	218	-161
2010/11	<b>Visual impairment</b>	136	233	-146
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54,726</b>	<b>379</b>	
2011/12	Hearing impairment	146	274	-127
2011/12	Visual impairment	166	249	-152
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51,421</b>	<b>401</b>	
2012/13	Hearing impairment	204	289	-112
2012/13	Visual impairment	203	241	-160
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53,261</b>	<b>401</b>	

**Information on leaver destinations for secondary and special schools for learners with hearing and visual impairments, and those with no ASN, 2009/10 to 2012/13**

	Percentage							
	Leavers with a hearing impairment				Leavers with No ASN			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>Number of leavers</b>	78	100	146	204	50,882	48,895	44,055	43,947
Higher Education	12.8	16.0	24.0	20.1	37.4	38.2	40.4	40.3
Further Education	55.1	42.0	45.2	48.0	26.0	25.8	24.9	25.7
Employment	9.0	18.0	10.3	12.3	18.9	19.7	20.4	21.0
Training	*	9.0	*	4.9	4.8	5.1	4.0	4.1
Voluntary Work	0.0	0.0	*	*	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
Activity Agreement	n/a	0.0	*	3.4	n/a	0.4	0.6	0.8
Unemployed Seeking	12.8	10.0	8.9	3.9	10.8	9.0	7.7	6.4
Unemployed Not Seeking	*	5.0	6.2	4.9	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.9
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3



	Percentage							
	Leavers with a visual impairment				Leavers with No ASN			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>Number of leavers</b>	103	136	166	203	50,882	48,895	44,055	43,947
Higher Education	8.7	22.1	22.3	18.2	37.4	38.2	40.4	40.3
Further Education	63.1	41.2	43.4	49.8	26.0	25.8	24.9	25.7
Employment	*	6.6	7.2	8.9	18.9	19.7	20.4	21.0
Training	8.7	4.4	8.4	7.9	4.8	5.1	4.0	4.1
Voluntary Work	0.0	0.0	*	*	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
Activity Agreement	n/a	*	*	*	n/a	0.4	0.6	0.8
Unemployed Seeking	11.7	*	*	4.4	10.8	9.0	7.7	6.4
Unemployed Not Seeking	*	20.6	12.7	7.9	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.9
Unknown	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3

**In April 2011 the Scottish Government rolled out the use of Activity Agreements.**