

Note for screenreader users: there are dropdown options in cells B5, B8, B12, B33, B35, B35, B36, B39, B40, B41, B42, B43, B44, B45, B46, B57, B58, B59, B60, B86, B87, B89, B90, B101, B102, B103, B104, B105, B107, B108, B109, B113, B114, B115, B116, B128, B129 and B130

Freedom of Information Request

Please enter the name of your Local Authority

Thurrock

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

1.a) How is provision for children and young people with vision impairment funded in your LA's Education Vision Impairment (VI) Advisory service?

Please select an answer using the drop-down menu .

Centrally funded by the LA for specialist support for all pupils with VI

1.a (i)

If you answered 'Other' in 1.a, please specify:

1.a (ii)

If you answered that your LA's funding is fully or partially delegated in (1.b), please give further details of the funding arrangement:

2.a

In the past twelve months, has your local authority made any changes to the way that provision for children and young people with vision impairment is funded, organised and/or staffed?

Please select an answer using the drop-down menu.

No

Section 2: Structuring of services

2.a (i)

If you answered 'Yes' to (2.a) please give details of the changes that have been made, otherwise leave blank:

<p>2.b</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Please select an answer using the drop-down menu.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.b (ii)</p> <p>Please provide any additional information on future changes below:</p>	
<p>3.a (i)</p> <p>Please provide overall VI service budget (including staff, equipment, and training) for 2020/21</p>	<p>£470,127</p>
<p>3.a (ii)</p> <p>Please provide overall VI service budget (including staff, equipment, and training) for 2021/22</p>	<p>£563,291</p>
<p>3.a (iii)</p> <p>Please provide overall VI service budget (including staff, equipment, and training) for 2022/23</p>	<p>£575,206</p>
<p>3.a (iv)</p> <p>Please enter any additional information on the budget below:</p>	<p>Includes back dated Teacher's & Support Staff pay awards</p>
<p>3.b</p> <p>If the budget is shared with another service or cannot be separated from the sensory budget, please state what the budget encompasses below:</p>	
<p>Section 3: Number of CYP on the VI service caseload and support available</p>	
<p>4.a (i)</p> <p>Please give the total number of children and young people of all ages in the VI service active caseload that are on an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)</p>	<p>56</p>
<p>4.a (ii)</p> <p>Please give the total number of children and young people of all ages in the VI service active caseload that are on SEN Support</p>	<p>56</p>

4.a (iii) Please give the total number of children and young people of all ages in the VI service active caseload that are not yet assessed/categorised		0
4.a (iv) Other totals, please state any other groups which do not fit the above categories	1- Pending EHCP	
4.a (v) Total children (all ages and categories)		113
4.a (vi) Any additional information		
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 below)	
EHCP Total (all ages)		0
SEN Support total (all ages)		0
Not yet assessed/categorised total (all ages)		0
Other totals, please state any other groups which do not fit the above categories in additional information space (optional/ all ages)		0
Total (all ages and categories)		0
5b) Any additional information? (optional free text)		
6a (i). Does your VI service support early years children (i.e. children who have not started in reception) within the child's home ?		
6a (ii) Does your VI service support early years children (i.e. children who have not started in reception) in pre-school/ early years settings ?	Yes	
6a (iii) Does your VI service support early years children (i.e. children who have not started in reception) in school settings (e.g. nursery class in mainstream or special school)	Yes	
6a (iv) Does your VI service support early years children (i.e. children who have not started in reception) in settings where the child is cared for by a childminder (outside of their home)?	Yes	
6b) If your VI service support early years children (i.e. children who have not started in reception) in other settings, please specify:	Home visits completed, we also run a monthly preschool sensory service group at a local childrens centre.	
7) 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)		5

8a. (i) Do you use use NatSIP Learner Outcomes Framework for allocating levels of support?	Yes
8a. (ii) Do you use NatSIP Eligibility Framework for Scoring Support Levels (2015) for allocating levels of support?	Yes
8a. (iii) Do you use Locally developed criteria for allocating levels of support?	No
8a. (iv) Other arrangement (please give details, free text)	
8b (i) 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?: Decision is made based on the individuals needs	Yes
8b (ii) 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?: They must meet a specified level of severity/visual acuity	Yes
8b (iii) 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?: They must have additional SEND	No
8b (iv) 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?: They must be failing to make the expected level of progress	No
8b (v) 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?: They are expected to attend a special school	No
8b (vi) Other, please specify (free text)	
9) Are there any groups of children and young people with VI that are NOT actively supported by the local authority VI service?	(Please indicate 'x' to all that apply)
Specific age groups	
Children/YP in specific types of setting e.g. academies etc.	
YP in futher education settings	
Children/YP with complex needs	
Other, please specify (free text)	
10a) How many CYP with VI have had their service reduced due to service capacity or restructure of the delivery model in the past 12 months?	0
10b) Other, please specify (free text)	
Section 4: VI service staffing	
11a (i) Is a Qualified teacher of pupils with vision impairment (QTVI (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in VI)) responsible for the strategic management of the VI service?	Yes
11a (ii) Is a Qualified teacher of the Deaf (TOD) (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in HI) responsible for the strategic management of the VI service?	No
11a (iii) Is a Qualified teacher of pupils with Multi-sensory Impairment (QTMSI (i.e. holds the mandatory qualification (MQ) in MSI) responsible for the strategic management of the VI service?	No

11a (iv) Is a member of staff with Other qualifications responsible for the strategic management of the VI service? (if yes please give details, free text)	No
12) 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):	4
Lead QTVI with mandatory qualification (MQ) (VI)	1
QTVI with mandatory qualification (MQ) (VI)	3
In training for MQ (VI)	0
Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) who will begin training within 2 years	0
Qualified teachers without MQ (VI) not in or due to begin training within 2 years	0
QTMSI with MQ (MSI)	0
QTVI and QTMSI MQ (holds both qualifications)	0
Lead QTVI vacancies currently vacant	0
QTVI vacancies currently vacant	0
13) What is the average time from referral to VI service and initial visit? (please give an estimation if exact time is unknown)	2 weeks in term time
14) 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 enter numerical values)
Habilitation officers	1
Specialist Braille support staff	2
Resource technicians FTE (for production of accessible materials)	4
ICT support technicians FTE	1
Dedicated early years staff FTE	0
Family support workers FTE	0
Admin/secretarial FTE	1
Other role FTE	2
Details of other role(s) if applicable (free text)	VI Ambassadors (Role models)
15) 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)
Number of TAs by full time equivalent (FTE)	4
Section 5: Habilitation	
16a (i) Habilitation services are delivered by a local authority employed Habilitation specialist	No
16a (ii) Habilitation services are delivered by an external organisation is commissioned to deliver the service	No

16a (iii) If offered by an external organisation please state the name of the organisation:	
16a (iv) Habilitation services are spot purchased	No
16a (v) No Habilitation services are delivered in the authority	No
16a (vi) Other, please specify (free text)	The VI resource base employ a fulltime Hab specialist, who also cover outreach work.
16b) If you answered that 'No Habilitation services are delivered in the authority' in question 16a, please explain the current situation and how children access Habilitation provision and support? (free text)	
17) How many pupils are currently receiving mobility / Habilitation training or waiting to be assessed?	
Number of pupils currently on active Habilitation caseload	33
Number of pupils waiting assessment	1
18a) Which department is responsible for the commissioning and/or delivery of habilitation services?	(Please indicate only one option with an 'x')
Children and family social care services	
Education services	X
We don't deliver habilitation services	
Other (please state)	
18b) If you answered "We don't deliver habilitation services", please explain what alternative provision is in place.	
19a (i) Are habilitation services available to CYP at Home?	Yes
19a (ii) Are habilitation services available to CYP at School?	Yes
19a (iii) Are habilitation services available to CYP in Community settings?	Yes
19a (iv) Are habilitation services available to CYP during school holidays?	Yes
19a (v) Are habilitation services available to CYP in Other settings? (please state)	At early years group
20a (i) Are referrals for an initial assessment of habilitation accepted from Medical professionals?	Yes
20a (ii) Are referrals for an initial assessment of habilitation accepted from Qualified Teachers of Children with Vision Impairment (QTVIs)?	Yes
20a (iii) Are referrals for an initial assessment of habilitation accepted from Other education professionals?	Yes
20a (iv) Other (please provide details)	
20b) Upon receipt of a referral, who carries out the initial assessment of habilitation needs?	Habilitation specialist with QTVI
Section 6: Registers	
21a (i) Does the Children's disability team (or similar), Social Care hold the register for children and young people who are registered as sight impaired (SI) or severely sight impaired (SSI)?	Yes

21a (ii) Does the Education/SEND/sensory team (or similar) hold the register for children and young people who are registered as sight impaired (SI) or severely sight impaired (SSI)?	Yes
21a (iii) Does the Local society for blind people/sight loss or sensory society hold the register for children and young people who are registered as sight impaired (SI) or severely sight impaired (SSI) (on behalf of local authority)?	Don't know
21a (iv) Does another organisation or department hold the register for children and young people who are registered as sight impaired (SI) or severely sight impaired (SSI)?	Don't know
21a (v) If another organisation or department please specify (free text)	
Section 7: Curriculum Framework for Children/Young People with Vision Impairment (CFVI)	
22) Do you use an existing framework or curriculum to support CYP with VI? (please tick all that apply):	(Please indicate only one option with an 'x')
Expanded Core Curriculum (EEC) – USA	
NatSIP Learner Outcomes Framework	X
Developmental Journal (DJVI)	X
Steps to Independence	X
Quality Standards for Habilitation	X
Guide Dogs Habilitation programme	
Bespoke programme designed in house	X
Other, please specify (free text)	CFVI
23) Is the VI service familiar with the CFVI? Y or N?	Yes
24a) If you answered yes to 23, have you incorporated any aspects of the CFVI in your normal working practices. If yes, please give details.	All pupils within the resource base has access to an alternative curriculum alongside the mainstream curriculum.
24b) If you answered yes to 23 - are you also aware of the CFVI resource hub?	Yes
And if so have you accessed, followed links or downloaded resources from the hub?	