

Transitions Seminar

Centre for Research in Education
Inclusion and Diversity

Close the Gap

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National Deaf Children's Society

- National charity delivering direct services to children and families
- Policy and campaigning activity to drive up standards in services for children who are deaf
- Training and publications for professionals
- Commission research to inform the sector.

Overview

- Why we commissioned research?
- What does the research tell us?
- What should happen nationally & locally to address the issues raised?

Why we commissioned research...



- A lack of understanding about the post-school experiences of deaf young people
- Bringing together scattered data and information about the experiences of deaf young people
- Create some definitive action around attainment gap.

The research involved

- Comparative secondary analysis of official statistics in wide number of areas relating to deaf young people
- Interviews with 30 deaf young people aged 18 - 24

What the research tells us...



There are a number of gaps in post-school outcomes for deaf young people in Scotland today:

- Academic attainment
- Access to post-16 destination
- Employability

Academic attainment

Deaf school leavers who received support for learning:

- Were more likely to leave school with no qualifications (9.8% vs 0.9%)
- Were less likely to obtain Highers or Advanced Highers (36.3% vs 61.1%)
- A worsening attainment profile for deaf learners

Access to post-16 destinations & employability

- Deaf school leavers are less likely to enter HE (21.8% vs 40%)
- More likely to enter FE –this is positive, yet research raised concerns about consistency of support in FE settings.
- Less likely to gain employment upon leaving school but improving (19.1% vs 22.5%)

What factors contribute to these outcomes?



- Consistency of support at school and post-school destinations and lack of accessible information and advocacy
- The lack of transitional planning for deaf young people
- Emotional health and wellbeing – lack of confidence & impact of social isolation
- Socio-economic status – a double disadvantage for deaf young people

What can be done nationally?

- Scottish Government recognises and formally commits to closing the gap for deaf young people
- A review is conducted by Education Scotland into education provision for deaf learners in Scotland
- Scottish Government takes steps to improve incomplete data sets
- Legislation & accompanying guidance used to improve transitional practices for deaf young people

What can be done locally?

NDCS is committed to supporting local authorities to strengthen how they support and prepare deaf young people to move on from school.

Taking local action – NDCS Statement of Intent

- Promoting positive emotional health and wellbeing
- Supporting effective transitional planning
- Facilitating effective partnership working through local transition forums

Progress so far...

NDCS marked the launch of the Close the Gap report at Scottish Parliament on 30 April



Young deaf people spoke directly with the Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages and a number of other MSPs.



Progress:

- Met with a number of MSPs over Spring party conferences, including Cabinet Secretary for Education Mike Russell
- A number of MSPs have written to the Minister supporting our calls for action to the Close the Gap for deaf children
- Engagement with Education Scotland in relation to developing a series of Learning Conversations and delivering a conference for deaf learners in early 2015.
- Scottish Government have agreed to acknowledge the attainment gap that exists for deaf learners and commit to closing this.

Next Steps

- Evaluation of the impact of the statement if intent in Ayrshire and roll out across Scotland linking with the national See Hear Strategy.
- Design and deliver Learning Conversations with Education Scotland to influence the sector
- Further research and awareness raising of issues and direct influencing of policy.

Transitions Clip

You may watch the video on Youtube at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYCNS_u1Q54 >