

Achievements of Deaf Pupils in

The ADPS project was established in 2000 to provide much-needed information about the educational attainments of deaf pupils throughout Scotland, and the team were delighted to obtain a second grant from the Scottish Executive to further develop the project. This grant runs from April 2002 until March 2004.

2000/01 Survey

99.4% of 1416 school questionnaires were completed and returned by teachers of the deaf which is excellent. This is an absolutely outstanding completion rate and means that we have the most comprehensive data on deaf children in Scotland ever collected. Of course, the task now is to keep up this standard. We are very grateful for the hard work of so many staff in all the schools and services. 88% of the 211 pre-school questionnaires were returned which was also very good, although we hope to increase this percentage in the coming year.

The huge task of entering all this data into our database has now been completed. All the information in the database is strictly confidential and nothing will ever be published which could identify a pupil or family.

Findings

The team presented some of the initial findings from the survey at a lively SSC information day in May 2002 which was attended by a wide range of people including teachers, deaf ex-pupils, parents and other professionals. We will be sharing the findings in a series of presentations throughout Scotland, so watch out for dates and times in your area. In the meantime, here are a few simple examples of the descriptive findings (the word 'deaf' is used throughout to cover the widest range of hearing loss):

Number of deaf pupils in Scotland in the school year 2000/01

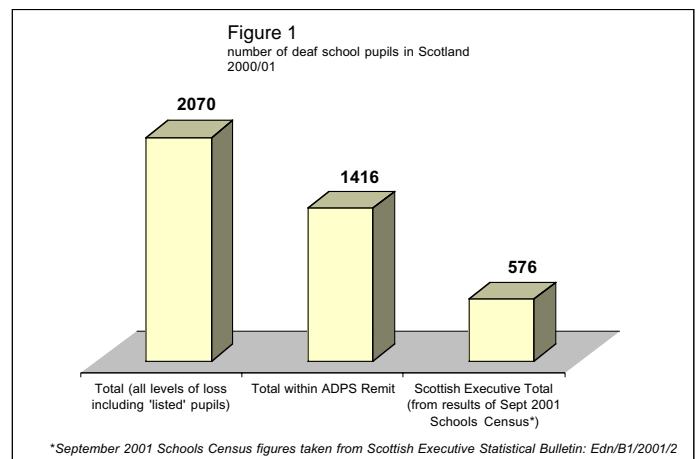
There were 2070 deaf pupils known to schools, units and visiting services for deaf children in 2000/01.



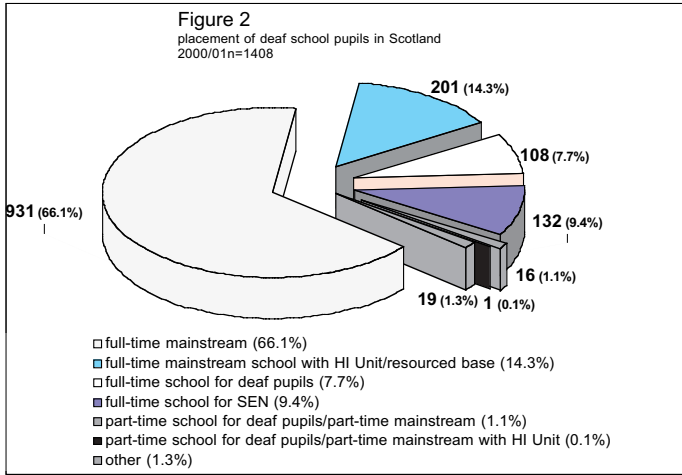
Participants discuss some of the project findings at the information day in May 2002

1416 of these 2070 pupils were within the ADPS remit (attending schools/units for deaf pupils or visited by a teacher of the deaf twice a year or more). We refer to the remaining 654 pupils who are visited only once a year or less as 'listed' pupils. We only have limited information on these 'listed' pupils, but we do know that most of them, as might be expected, have mild hearing loss.

In the same year 576 deaf pupils were recorded by the Scottish Executive, as only pupils who attended special schools and those in mainstream with a Record of Needs were counted and only where deafness was the main reason for opening the Record. Figure 1, below, illustrates these figures as three separate columns.



Scotland - project update



School Placement

The majority (66%) of the 1408 children for whom ADPS has records were in full time mainstream placements. As explained above, ADPS has only limited information on the 654 'listed' children who are visited once a year or less. We do not have a breakdown of placement of these children, but anticipate that a very small proportion will be catered for under specialist provision. However, even if all of the 654 'listed' pupils had attended mainstream schools, this would take the percentage of pupils in mainstream to 77%, still less than the 90% or more often quoted.

It could be argued that children who attend units attached to mainstream schools should be included in the mainstream percentage. If we do this as well as including all 'listed' children, it takes the mainstream percentage up to 86%. These figures exclude the 22 children who are part time in mainstream and part time in either a special school or school for deaf pupils. Figure 2, above, shows the distribution of pupils among all the different types of educational placement for 2000/01.

School Placement: Primary/Secondary

We found that the gap between the number in mainstream compared to other provision was

greater in secondary schooling than in primary. See Figure 3 below.

2001/02 Survey

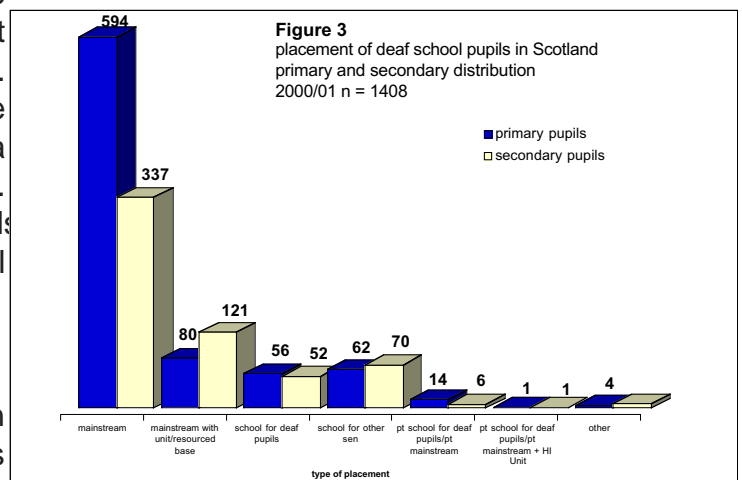
Now that we have established the database we need to expand and update information annually. Making sure that we keep in touch with all changes is a complicated business, but our Administrator, Emily, is somehow managing to come up with efficient ways of dealing with this. We sent out questionnaires during the summer term and had about one third of them returned by the summer holiday which is very encouraging. Many thanks to the teachers concerned.

New Deaf Researcher to join the team

We are very pleased that the new funding this year includes enough money to appoint a part-time deaf researcher to further develop the involvement of deaf pupils and ex-pupils in the project. Watch this space for further information.

Stand-alone Database Pilot

We have also had our first meetings with Glasgow Sensory Support Service in order to plan the development of a pilot 'stand-alone database'. The idea is for the Service to have its own version of the ADPS database, containing only Glasgow Service pupils. Staff would be able to update the pupil records directly and then make the new information available to ADPS.



This would also allow the database to be used by the Service for planning and monitoring purposes. While this might seem straightforward, there are quite a number of technical and training issues involved. Again, Ernst and Emily are on the case! Once this pilot project has sorted out all the gremlins, we would hope that, in the longer term, all schools and services would be able to update pupil records directly.

Family Questionnaires

ADPS and the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) are working together to produce a special questionnaire to be sent direct to families. This will include questions about home and family. Our discussions with parents suggest that they feel strongly that they are the best people to answer such questions. The completion of the questionnaires will be supported by volunteers from Deaf Children's Societies throughout Scotland. Again, we hope that the information gathered will be useful to the NDCS, as well as ADPS and other groups.

ProDeaf Project

The Profiling Deaf Pupils (ProDeaf) project in Fife involves the piloting of a special database

of deaf children and young people which contains key information and assessment reports relating to individual pupils. The aim is to give ownership of this information to the pupils and families themselves and also to try to ensure that such information is in a form that is easily accessible to the individual and family. We have worked very closely with the Deaf Children's Society in Fife and a steering group of professionals who are all keen to make this work. Our database developer, Ernst, is currently developing the initial prototype of the database for discussion in September.

We look forward to seeing many of you during the coming school year. Please do get in touch if you would like us to visit your area and/or if you have any questions or comments.

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