



Ms Fiona Nicholson  
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Contact: Dawn Wilson  
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Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk  
Date: 18 January 2013

Dear Ms Nicholson

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 27 December 2012 for information about the availability of services and support for home educated children with SEN and disabilities. Please find below Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

1. Could you please tell me:

- a) The total number of children in your authority with a statement of SEN = 1299
- b) The number of home educated children in your authority with a statement of SEN = 6
- c) The number of home educated children of primary age with a statement of SEN = 2
- d) The number of home educated children of secondary age with a statement of SEN = 4
- e) The number of statements for home educated children categorised as having "moderate learning difficulty" (if the authority has a banding system, please could you indicate the number of home educated children within the relevant statement bands) = 1
- f) The number of statements for home educated children with physical disabilities = 0
- g) The number of statements for home educated children with speech, language and communication needs = 0
- h) The number of statements for home educated children with autism spectrum disorders = 2
- i) The number of statements for home educated children with severe or complex learning difficulties (if the authority has a banding system, please could you indicate the number of home educated children within the relevant statement bands) = 3
- j) The number of home educated children with a statement of SEN who formerly attended a special school (if known) = 3
- k) The number of children with a statement of SEN who started home education during the calendar year 2012 = 1
- l) The number of children with a statement of SEN who have been home educated for more than 2 years = 2
- m) The number of home educated children with a statement of SEN who have been home educated for more than 5 years = 1
- n) The number of children with a statement of SEN who ceased to be home educated during the calendar year 2012 because they started to attend school = 2

2. Within your authority - not including the provision of assessments/reports for the annual review of the statement of SEN - do home educated children have access to any of the following:

a) Educational psychology service:

For children who do not have a Statement of SEN, the Educational Psychology Service may undertake an assessment of a child at the request of a parent/carers, health professional or an officer of the Authority if there are significant concerns about the child's educational progress or general development. The purpose of the assessment in these circumstances would be primarily to ascertain whether the child might have special educational needs that require a statutory assessment of SEN by the Authority. Another purpose might be to facilitate the child's admission/transition into school, where that is the wish of the parent/carers.

For children with a Statement of SEN, other than as part of a formal Annual Review, an educational psychologist might carry out an assessment at the request of an SEN Officer if there are concerns about the child's progress, and/or where a significant change in educational provision is being considered. The purpose here would be to advise LA officers and parents/carers whether or not the child's SENs were being met in line with the objectives of the Statement, or to assist SEN officers and parents/carers to identify appropriate provision and approaches to meet the child's needs more effectively.

Other than in exceptional circumstances the Educational Psychology Service would not expect to have any ongoing involvement with the child or parents/carers (e.g. of an advisory nature) beyond the assessment of the child's educational functioning as described above.

- b) Occupational therapy services and equipment
- c) Speech and language therapy
- d) CAMHS

Response to 2 a), b) and C)

Elective Home Education Children have equal access to these services which are provided via the NHS and through normal health referral pathway.

3. Does the authority have a specific policy with regard to provision of services and support listed in Part 3 of the statement when a child with a statement of SEN is home educated? If yes, could you please summarise the policy, for example if the authority does not make provision available when a child is home educated:

No.

4. How many home educated children with a statement of SEN will be entered on the Alternative Provision Census under the category Not a School, for SEN support (deadline Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/parents/involvement/homeeducation/a0073322/funding-for-home-education>) = 6

I hope that this information is useful to you.

#### **Reviewing any decisions made:**

You can ask us to review any decisions made about your request. You do this by writing to Freedom of Information Officer,

Doncaster Council,

Civic Office,

Waterdale

Doncaster,

DN1 3BU

E-mail: [FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk)

You can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Please contact the Commissioner for details on how to do this - telephone 01625 545700, address: Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Internet: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

**Dawn Wilson**  
**Communications Officer**  
**Children and Young People's Service**

**Doncaster Council**

