

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000165
Date 20 May 2016

Stability for Children in Foster Care

Request:

Under The Freedom of Information Act 2000 Action for Children would like to find out about stability for children in foster care, are you able to help us to get the data for the below questions?

The data we would like you to look at is for the last financial year, 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

1. How many children were in foster care placements with you during the last financial year (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016)? **NB. This includes children placed with independent fostering agencies, in house, emergency care or any other foster care.**

670 children

2. Of the total number of children in foster care, (listed in question 1), how many were brought into foster care under an emergency placement or police protection order?

127 children

3. Of the total number of children in foster care (listed in question 1), how many during 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 had:

- a) One placement/remained in the same placement **(this excludes emergency placements and police protection orders)**

524 children

- b) Two placements **(this excludes emergency placements and police protection orders)**

106 children

- c) Three placements **(this excludes emergency placements and police protection orders)**

24 children

- d) Four placements **(this excludes emergency placements and police protection orders)**

12 children

- e) Five placements (**this excludes emergency placements and police protection orders**)
2 children
- f) Six placements (**this excludes emergency placements and police protection orders**)
2 children
- g) Seven placements or more (**this excludes emergency placements and police protection orders**)
0 children
4. Out of the number of children in care (listed in question 1), what is the main reason a child moves from a foster care placement?
NB. This includes children placed with independent fostering agencies, in house, emergency care or any other foster care.
- a) Planned movement in line with foster child's care plan
 - b) Foster carer resigns or fostering service closes
 - c) Foster carer is no longer approved
 - d) An allegation has been made against the foster carer or another child
 - e) There is concern about the standards of care
 - f) Foster carer requests that the placement ends due to the child's behaviour
 - g) Foster carer requests that the placement ends for other reasons
 - h) Child requests that the foster placement ends
 - i) The foster placement no longer meets child's needs
 - j) Cost consideration

As shown above, the main reason would be a). However, we have taken the placement and end reasons and provided you with a percentage as shown in the table below:

a) Planned movement in line with foster child's care plan	97.79%
g) Foster carer requests that the placement ends for other reasons	0.74%
h) Child requests that the foster placement ends	0.37%
Other	1.10%

Please note that we have categorised "other" as anything that does not fit into your above selection.