

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000306
Date 25 July 2016

Looked After Children

Request:

1. Please could you supply the name, job title, email address and telephone number of the commissioner with responsibility for Looked After Children and/or placements in children's care homes.

Alison Hinds
Head of Looked After Children
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01902 556556

*For questions 2 through 11, please supply the following information for the **financial years 2012/13 to 2015/16**, and where possible, the **budget or most up to date snapshot available for 2016/17**.*

2. Please provide the total number of children looked after by the local authority.

2012/13
816

2013/14
986

2014/15
1,002

2015/16
905

Snapshot end of July 2016
638

3. Please provide the local authority's total expenditure on placements for looked after children (q.2).

2012/13
Residential Care £2.7 million
Private Foster Care £10.3 million
In-House Foster Care £3.9 million

2013/14

Residential Care £4.3 million
Private Foster Care £12.8 million
In-House Foster Care £3.7 million

2014/15

Residential Care £6.6 million
Private Foster Care £14.9 million
In-House Foster Care £5.3 million

2015/2016 outturn:

Residential Care £5.6 million
Private Foster Care £11.9 million
In-House Foster Care £5.2 million

2016/2017 Projected expenditure:

Residential Care £4.6 million
Private Foster Care £10.3 million
In-House Foster Care £5.4 million

4. Of the total number of children looked after by the local authority (q.2) please provide the number of placements in children's homes (**not including secure units or hostels**).

2012/13

197

2013/14

356

2014/15

109

2015/2016

206

Snapshot end of July 2016

32

5. Please provide the local authority's expenditure on looked after children's placements in children's homes (q.4).

2012/13

In respect of the years prior to 2014/15, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the expenditure for placements down to the level of detail you are requesting in our financial ledger. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the

description specified in the request".

2013/14

In respect of the years prior to 2014/15, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the expenditure for placements down to the level of detail you are requesting in our financial ledger. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

2014/15

2015/2016

With reference to the year 2014/15 onwards, after careful consideration the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide the information you have requested we would need to analyse 102 clients in 2014/15 and 100 clients in 2015/16. In addition to this some of the clients will have multiple placements and would require additional time to arrive at an expenditure figure. This would take us over the appropriate time limit of 18 hours.

Snapshot end of July 2016

2016/17 – not available at present. Available approximately end of May 2017.

6. Of the number of children looked after by the local authority in children's homes (q.4) please provide the number placed inside the local authority boundary (in area) and the number placed outside the local authority boundary (out of area).

2012/13

Total LAC in a children's home – 87

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – 61

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – 44

2013/14

Total LAC in a children's home – 94

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – 65

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – 47

2014/15

Total LAC in a children's home – 77

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – 35

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - 51

2015/2016

Total LAC in a children's home – 72

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – 21

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - 60

2016/2017

Snapshot end of July 2016

Total LAC in a children's home - 32

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - 10

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – 22

Please note with reference to the answers provided to question 6 above, while the overall figure for LAC in a children's home is correct, figures for previous years (12/13 to 15/16) will encompass LAC who have a) just placement(s) in Wolverhampton, b) just placement(s) outside Wolverhampton and c) placements both inside and outside Wolverhampton within the given year. This is why the "Total LAC with CH placement in Wolverhampton" and "Total LAC with CH placement out of Wolverhampton do not reconcile to the "Total LAC in a Children's home".

7. Please provide the local authority's expenditure on placements for children looked after by the local authority in children's homes inside the local authority boundary and in children's homes outside the local authority boundary (q.6).

In respect of question 7 for the years prior to 2014/15, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the expenditure for placements down to the level of detail you are requesting in our financial ledger. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

8. Please provide the number of children looked after by the local authority in:

- In placements inside the local authority boundary, in 'own provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the local authority)
- In placements outside the local authority boundary, in 'own provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the local authority)

- In placements inside the local authority boundary, in 'private provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the independent sector)
- In placements outside the local authority boundary, in 'private provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the independent sector)

2012/13

Total LAC in a children's home - 87
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - LA provision - 41
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - private provision - 22
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - voluntary/3rd sector provision - 1
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - 61
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - LA provision - 14
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - private provision - 33
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - 44

2013/14

Total LAC in a children's home - 94
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – LA provision - 35
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – private provision - 37
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - 65
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – LA provision - 15
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – private provision - 36
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - 47

2014/15

Total LAC in a children's home - 77
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – LA provision - 15
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – private provision - 23
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - 35
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – LA provision - 15
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – private provision - 39
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - 51

2015/2016

Total LAC in a children's home - 72
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – LA provision - 0
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – private provision - 21
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0
Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - 21
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – LA provision - 23
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – private provision - 39
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0
Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton - 60

2016/2017

Snapshot end of July 2016

Total LAC in a children's home - 32

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – LA provision - 2

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – private provision - 8

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton – voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0

Total LAC with a CH placement in Wolverhampton - 10

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – LA provision - 0

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – private provision - 22

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – voluntary/3rd sector provision - 0

Total LAC with a CH placement out of Wolverhampton – 22

As with question 6 above, the answers provided for question 8 shows there are issues with double counting. For instance, in the 14/15 FY, it shows that there were 38 LAC who had a children's home placement in Wolverhampton. However, the data also shows that 15 LAC had a placement in LA-provision children's home, and that 26 LAC had a Private-provision placement in a children's home in Wolverhampton. Adding 15+26 is 41, not 38. This discrepancy can be explained: there were 12 of those LAC just in an LA-provision children's home, 23 LAC just in a Private-provision children's home, and 3 LAC who spent time in both an LA-provision home and also a Private-provision children's home, all of which added together total 38.

9. Please provide the local authority's expenditure on placements for looked after children in:

- In placements inside the local authority boundary, in 'own provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the local authority)
- In placements outside the local authority boundary, in 'own provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the local authority)
- In placements inside the local authority boundary, in 'private provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the independent sector)
- In placements outside the local authority boundary, in 'private provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the independent sector)

In respect of question 9 for the years prior to 2014/15, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the expenditure for placements down to the level of detail you are requesting in our financial ledger. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

10. Please provide the number of children looked after by the local authority with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (also known as EBD; Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties; BESD; Behavioural and Emotional Disorders) in:

- In placements inside the local authority boundary, in 'own provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the local authority)

- In placements outside the local authority boundary, in 'own provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the local authority)
- In placements inside the local authority boundary, in 'private provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the independent sector)
- In placements outside the local authority boundary, in 'private provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the independent sector)

In respect of question 10, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information as we do not collect this information. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

11. Please provide the local authority's expenditure on placements for looked after children with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (also known as EBD; Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties; BESD; Behavioural and Emotional Disorders) in:

- In placements inside the local authority boundary, in 'own provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the local authority)
- In placements outside the local authority boundary, in 'own provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the local authority)
- In placements inside the local authority boundary, in 'private provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the independent sector)
- In placements outside the local authority boundary, in 'private provision' children's homes (children's homes operated by the independent sector)

In respect of question 11 for the years prior to 2014/15, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the expenditure for placements down to the level of detail you are requesting in our financial ledger. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".