



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000381
Date 24 August 2016

Children Services

Request:

In 2012 Local Authorities were accountable to the Government for their Children Services: In the Department for Education's Accountability Systems Statements 2012, in section 124 on page 49 it states "the Department has a responsibility for holding LAs to account for their performance in delivering Children services".

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accountability-system-statement-for-education-and-childrens-services>

The above position changes in the Accountability Systems Statement 2015, in section 153 on page 62 to "LAs' primary accountability for delivery of services is to their communities, through their electorate and elected Councillors"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accountability-system-statement--2>

This highlights that Local Authorities are accountable to the **electorate** for the implementation, monitoring and performance of the services they deliver to achieve the statutory duties as stated in the Children Act 1989.

Below is a **freedom of information** request that is seeking clarification from every local authority, to ensure they will have systems in place to be able to supply data and information on their statutory duties to the **electorate**, henceforth on an annual basis.

The **electorate** would like to know how your authority is performing against the statutory duties outlined in the document **Promoting the education of looked after children-Statutory guidance for local authorities (July 2014)**, Can you please confirm that your local authority will be in a position to supply the following data/information:

1. Section 5, page 6 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the percentage of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) that have been assessed as high quality and effective within each academic session? **Yes** or No

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

2. Section 22, page 11 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the percentage of looked after children/care leavers (aged up to 18), that were educated in an educational institution judged as outstanding or good by Ofsted in each academic year? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data

3. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the amount of the authority's care leavers (aged 19-25) that have returned to education or training in each academic year henceforth and were supported by the authority? **Yes** or No

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data?

The **electorate** would like to know how your authority is performing against the statutory duties stated in the document **Promoting the health and well-being of looked after children, statutory guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England, March 2015.**

On page 6 of the document it states: "The local authority that looks after the child must arrange for them to have a health assessment as required by *The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010*" & "*The initial health assessment must be done by a registered medical practitioner*". These statements clearly refer to the responsibility being positioned with the local authority; therefore the **electorate** would appreciate receiving this information from the local authority and not from any organisations that are commissioned to perform this work. **We would be grateful if you could confirm that your local authority will be in a position to supply the following data/information:**

4. Section 40 page 15 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that entered the care of your authority within each financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No.

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

5. Section 40 page 15 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that entered the care of your authority in a financial year and henceforth, that had a statutory **initial health assessment** on entry to the care system? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data?

6. Section 42, page 15 of the above document. The electorate would like to know

that the emotional health of children coming into care is assessed by a person qualified to assess mental health. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that entered the care of your authority within each financial year and henceforth, that had their emotional health assessed by a **registered medical practitioner** (a person qualified to assess mental health) as part of their **initial statutory health assessment**? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data. On page 4 of the document it states "Local Authorities **must** comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure"?

7. Section 42, page 15 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that entered the care of your authority within each financial year and henceforth, that were diagnosed as needing support with their emotional well-being as part of their **initial health assessment**? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data. On page 4 of the document it states "Local Authorities **must** comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure"?

8. Section 42, page 15 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that received a therapeutic intervention from a registered medical practitioner to improve their emotional health and well-being as part of their initial health assessment? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data. On page 4 of the document it states "Local Authorities **must** comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure"?

9. Section 42, page 15 of the above document. The **electorate** would like to know that suitably qualified people are assessing the emotional health of looked after children and care leavers coming into care. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the names and qualifications of the medical practitioners that have assessed the emotional well-being of looked after children and care leavers that entered care of your authority, in each financial year and henceforth as part of their Initial Health Assessment? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data. On page 4 of the document it states "Local Authorities **must** comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure"?

10. Section 42, page 15 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that entered the care of your authority within a financial year and had their mental health assessed by a **registered medical practitioner** (a person qualified to assess mental health) as part of their **initial statutory health assessment**? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data. On page 4 of the document it states "Local Authorities **must** comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure"

11. Section 42, page 15 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that entered the care of your authority within a financial year and henceforth, that were assessed as needing support with their mental health, as part of their initial health assessment? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data. On page 4 of the document it states "Local Authorities **must** comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure"

12. Section 42, page 15 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that entered the care of your authority within a financial year that were diagnosed as needing support with their mental health and received a therapeutic intervention from a registered medical practitioner, as part of their initial health assessment? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data. On page 4 of the document it states "Local Authorities **must** comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure"

13. The **electorate** would like to know that suitably qualified people are assessing the mental health of looked after children and care leavers coming into care. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the names and qualifications of the medical practitioners that have assessed the mental health of looked after children and care leavers that entered the care of your authority within a financial year and henceforth, as part of their Initial Health Assessment? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no please specify when you will have a system in place to supply the data. On page 4 of the document it states "Local Authorities **must** comply with this guidance unless there are exceptional reasons that justify a departure"

14. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the percentage of the **total** population (not just the initial health

assessment) of the authority's looked after children and care leavers that received a mental health intervention from a qualified medical practitioner (Child and Adolescent Mental Health service or equivalent) within a financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No.

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

15. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the total amount of **public funding** spent on mental health provision (CAMHs or equivalent) within a financial year and henceforth, for the total population of the authority's looked after children and care leavers? (up to the age of 18 under the care of the authority) **Yes** or No.

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

16. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the total amount of **public funding** spent on mental health provision (CAMHs or equivalent) for all young people (not just LAC an Care Leavers) within a financial year and henceforth, **Yes** or No.

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

17. The electorate would like to know the impact of mental health interventions delivered/commissioned by the authority for looked after children and care leavers. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the aggregated data from Revised Childhood anxiety and depression scale tests that have been conducted on looked after children and care leavers? These tests should be conducted with every young person that engages a mental health intervention (CAMHs or equivalent). **Yes** or No.

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

The **electorate** would like to know how your authority is performing against the statutory duties stated in the document **-The children Act 1989, guidance and regulations, Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for care leavers. October 2014**. Can you please confirm that your local authority will be in a position to supply the following data/information:

18. Section 4.4, page 34 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the amount of former relevant young people that are being supported by your authority to return to education, training or employment within each financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data

19. Section 4.4, page 34 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of former relevant young people that have received a PA to support their education or training within a financial year and henceforth, aligned to section 23C (3) (a) of the 1989 Act? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data

20. Section 4.5, page 34 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the amount of **public funding** the authority spent in a financial year on expenses associated with employment for former relevant young people, section 23C (4) (a)? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data

21. Section 4.5, page 34 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the amount of **public funding** the authority spent in a financial year on expenses associated with education and training for former relevant young people, section 23C (4) (a)? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data

22. Section 7.12, page 62 of the above document .By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of your care leavers that the authority has placed in bed and breakfast accommodation in each financial year and henceforth, aligned to section 23B of the 1989 Act, and regulation 9 (2) of the care leaver regulations? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data

23. Section 7.27, page 65 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of care leavers that the authority has placed in a staying put arrangement in each financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

24. Section 7.30, page 66 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the total amount of **public funding** that the authority payed for staying put arrangements in each financial year and henceforth, aligned to section 23CZA (4) of the Children Act 1989? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

25. Section 8.19, page 80 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the numbers of care leavers that were awarded the setting up home allowance (**public funding**) in each financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

26. Section 8.19, page 80 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the numbers of care leavers that left the care of your authority in each financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

27. Section 8.19, page 80 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the amount of **public funding** that was awarded to each of your care leavers for their setting up home allowance in each financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

28. Section 8.19, page 80 of the above document. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the total amount of **public funding** that was awarded to care leavers for the setting up home allowance, in each financial year henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

Additional information that the **electorate** would like to know is:

29. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the percentage of case-holding posts filled by permanent qualified Social Workers in a financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

30. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the number of looked after children and care leavers that are placed out of the authority's boundary in a financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

31. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the percentage of looked after children and care leavers that are placed out of the authority's boundary in a financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

32. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the average amount of visits that a looked after child or care leaver receives from any member of the authority, when placed in your authority's boundary in a financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.

33. By January 2017 will your authority have a system in place to supply the **electorate** with the average amount of visits that a looked after child or care leaver receives from any member of the authority, when placed outside of your authority's boundary, within a financial year and henceforth? **Yes** or No?

If the answer is no, please state when you will have a system in place to supply the data.