

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000468
Date 28 September 2016

National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

Request:

- 1/ Is your local authority taking part in the National Transfer Scheme? If so, what are the reasons?
Yes we are committed to offering support to the scheme and prior to the introduction of the scheme we supported another LA by taking 5UASC

- 2/ How many unaccompanied children do you look after currently, and what would this number increase to if 0.07% of your general child population threshold was met?
Four of the current 625 looked after children (LAC) as of today (5th October) are UASC. The latest Mid-Year Population Estimate (MYE) from ONS stated there were 58,167 0-17s in the city in 2015. Therefore, 0.07% of the 58,167 equals a potential 'ceiling' of 41 UASC LAC in Wolverhampton.

- 3/ Have you accepted any unaccompanied children under the National Transfer Scheme yet?
Yes

If so, from which local authority were they transferred?
Brent

- 3/ What actions, if any, does your local authority social services/children's services department plan to undertake in terms of securing foster care, providing supported accommodation and conducting joined up planning with the education and health sectors?
All foster carers are recruited and approved to take children between 0-18.

Specific training will be provided to foster carers as required.

We are working closely with education providers and health to ensure specific need is met.

- 4/ What are the financial implications of taking part in the National Transfer Scheme (particularly in light of the new funding grants from the Home Office that were introduced on 1 July)?

This has increased our looked after numbers and the associated budget

5/ How would any shortfall be covered?

Any shortfalls will be funded from within the overall budget for Children and Young People.

6/ Have these issues been raised at cabinet or any local authority committee meetings?

No

If so, could you please provide the minute(s) or any items relating to this matter?

N/A