

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000639
Date 28 November 2016

Allegations of Abuse Made Against Homecare Workers

Request:

My request relates to allegations of abuse made against homecare workers who are employed by your council or work for a company subcontracted by the council.

For clarity, these are workers who go into other people's homes to provide personal care services to them, sometimes known as domiciliary carers. I request the following:

1. For each of the past three financial years, 13/14, 14/15 and 15/16 what was the total number of allegations of abuse made against home care workers?

ADULTS WORKING IN WITH ADULTS WITH CARE AND SUPPORT NEEDS.

Prior to summer 2016 there was no statutory duty for the LA to collate information with regard to the management of allegations with respect to persons in positions of trust working with 'vulnerable adults'. Such allegations were dealt with via Large Scale Strategy Discussions and records were maintained under the names of the service user affected. The Care Act 2014 initially muted the notion of a Designated Adults Safeguarding Manager (DASM) who would be responsible for addressing such allegations within their own organisation but this role has not been implemented in statute. Since April 2016 Wolverhampton City Council has implemented a Management of allegations process for adults working with adults who have care or support needs but this only addresses allegations made against individuals who work for the LA or work for organisations that are commissioned to deliver services on behalf of the Local Authority. A similar process also exists within the CCG, the local Health Trusts and the Police.

Since September 2016 the Local Authority has been collating information under the name of the alleged perpetrator and therefore, holds insufficient information to respond to this FOI.

I can confirm that where allegations have been addressed under the Large Scale Strategy discussion process the police have always been involved; and under the Management of Allegations process (persons in Positions of Trust) the Police are integral to the discussions lest a criminal offence has taken place.

ADULTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The Management of Allegations Process regarding Adults working with

Children - The local Authority Designated Officer is responsible for management of this process. The role of the LADO is set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) and is governed by the Authorities duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004. Information is collated under the names of the individuals who are alleged to have breached their position of trust.

For each disclosure I would like the following additional information:

- * the age of the victim within 10-year time frames so as to preserve anonymity, ie age 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49 ,50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100-109.
Information is not available – data is not held in this format. – Data is split under children 0-18 and adults 19+.
The adult information has only recently been collated under the name of the alleged perpetrator – previously the information was held within the record of the adult who had been abused.
- * The nature of the alleged abuse. Was it sexual abuse, physical, psychological, financial or other? If other please state what the alleged abuse was.
Data regarding nature of abuse is collated as a combined abuse category across all service areas/occupations rather than specific to one particular service area/occupation. Therefore this information cannot be extracted without looking at each individual record.- This applies to allegations affecting children; information regarding adults affected has only been collated against the alleged perpetrators name since September 2016.
- * Was the allegation substantiated or unsubstantiated?
This information is only available by reviewing each record. This applies to allegations affecting children; information regarding adults affected has only been collated against the alleged perpetrators name since September 2016.
- * Was disciplinary action taken against the worker? If so, please state the action taken.
This information is only available by reviewing each record. This applies to allegations affecting children; information regarding adults affected has only been collated against the alleged perpetrators name since September 2016.
- * Were the police called?
The Police are involved in every Management of Allegations referral whether historically dealt with under the Large Scale Strategy discussion procedure , or the Management of Allegations procedure (Persons in Positions of Trust)

My strong preference is for you to provide a full three-year disclosure but if you consider it will breach the FOI act's time and cost limits I would accept just one financial year – 15/16.