

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000680
Date 09 December 2016

Drug and/or Alcohol Misuse

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information regarding child protection in the UK.

Where possible, please kindly include responses on the attached spreadsheet.

1. Please could you supply the name, email address and telephone number of the commissioner with responsibility for children in need of help and/or protection.
[This local authority does not have a specific commissioner for this service area.](#)

*For questions 2-6 inclusive, please supply the following information **as a snapshot at the end of the year** for the financial years 2013/14 – 2016/17 (predicted).*

*For questions 2-6 inclusive, please supply the following information specific to those cases **where drug and/or alcohol misuse is a factor.***

2. Please advise on the number of children identified as children in need? [See table below.](#)
3. Please advise on the number of children who were subject to Section 47 enquiries? [See table below.](#)
4. Please advise on the number of children who were subject to child protection conferences? [See table below.](#)
5. Please advise on the number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan? [See table below.](#)
6. Please advise on the number of children whose cases were taken to court proceedings concluding in care/placement/adoption orders? [See table below.](#)
7. Please advise on the average cost per case in 2015/16 (or 2016/17 if available) of each of the above stages? [Your request for information has now been considered. Unfortunately City of Wolverhampton Council cannot supply all of the information you requested for the reasons set out below.](#)

[Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000](#) requires City of

Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
- (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to average cost per case is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full scale look into all case files. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

8. Please advise as to which of the above stages may use drug and alcohol testing as evidence and reasons as to why it is/isn't used? [See response to Q7.](#)
9. For each financial year 2015/16 and 2016/17, how many hair drug and alcohol tests were conducted? [See response to Q7.](#)
10. In a situation where hair drug/alcohol testing is used as evidence, do you have a preferred provider for this service? If not, please provide a list of providers used in these cases and the total expenditure with each provider for financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17? [See response to Q7.](#)

In response to Question 2 to Question 6, we can only provide data for financial year 2013-14 to 2015-16 and not 2016-17 (predicted) as we only have historical data, not predictions.

		13-14 FY	14-15 FY	15-16 FY
Base denominator	Children whose most recent assessment in that financial year flagged drugs or alcohol misuse (D-A) as a factor	420	610	701
Q2	Number of D-A children who were CiN on the 31st March	290	409	431
Q3	Number of D-A children who had an S47 in this financial year	72	131	143
Q4	Number of D-A children who had a Child Protection Conference (some of which, but not all, are Initial Child Protection Conferences) in this financial year	111	180	176
Q5	Number of D-A children who were subject to a CP plan in this financial year	60	84	57
Q6	Number of D-A children who end up at some point subject to a care order, placement order, adoption order	114	159	166