

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001075
Date 20 April 2017

Children Referred to Social Care

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Action for Children would like to find out about support available for the children who do not meet the social care threshold, are you able to help us get the data for the below questions?

In the last financial year, 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

1. How many children referred to children's social care had their case closed immediately after assessment?
[1382](#)
2. For children that were assessed but whose case was closed immediately after assessment, what were **the main reasons** which caused them to be referred to children's social care in the first place?

Please pick most relevant answers, no more than 3:

- a. Domestic violence
- b. Mental health problems (parent)
- c. Mental health problems (child)
- d. Substance misuse
- e. Antisocial behaviour
- f. Disability
- g. School attendance
- h. Neglect
- i. Sexual abuse or CSE
- j. Physical abuse
- k. Homelessness
- l. Missing
- m. Young carer
- n. Other
- o. Don't know

[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 this question 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 individual case records. 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).

3. When the case is closed by social care immediately after assessment (i.e. they are not eligible for social care) is there a system or pathway in place in your local authority for **children to be automatically referred to Early Help** or other non-statutory support.

Please note that early help refers to, signposting to universal or specialist services; one-to-one practical and emotional support for children, young people and parents; parenting support or other services designed to meet lower levels of need.

- a. Don't know
- b. Yes

- c. No
[We have a policy which clearly outlines the pathway.](#)
4. How many children who were assessed by children's social care and whose case was closed immediately after assessment **received preventative early help support?** [Don't know.](#)

Please indicate 'don't know' if you do not collect or hold this information.

Please find below extra information and guidance on how to answer the questions.

The questions use the same terminology as the annual statutory Children in Need census for all local authorities to the Department for Education (DfE). The relevant information is drawn from DfE (2016) [Children in need census 2016 to 2017 Guide for local authorities](#).

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/570873/CIN_census_2016_2017_guide_v1.3.pdf]