

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002133
Date 04 April 2018

Looked After Children

Request:

Can you please provide the following information:

In all instances where numbers are asked for please provide them both as a whole number and as a percentage.

1. How many children of compulsory school age do you currently have under local authority care? **479**

Of these;

- i) How many were school educated by their parents before going into care? **456**
 - ii) How many were electively home educated by their parents before going into care? **3**
2. Can you please provide a statistical breakdown of the reasons why children in your local authority have been put under local authority care?

Category of Need for Current LAC	Total
Absent Parenting	11
Abuse or Neglect	445
Child's Disability or Illness	5
Family Dysfunction	85
Family in Acute Stress	53
Not Stated	11
Parental Disability or Illness	19
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	11
Grand Total	640

3. Please provide the number of children under local authority care classed as children missing education for the years (Jan 01 - Dec 31 in all instances) 2015, 2016, 2017.

2015 = 2

2016 = 0

2017 = 2

4. Please provide a breakdown of how the children under local authority care are currently receiving their educational provision. Please include CME statistics.

School	446
Special School	10
Pupil referral Unit	2
Attending College	13
Children Missing Education	1 – CME due to placement move 1 – CME due to placement move Alternative Provision start imminent
Elective Home Education	2 – were EHE prior to becoming LAC, since becoming LAC 1 school and 1 PRU place are being sought.
Alternative Provision	3
In Custody (FT provision)	1

5. Please provide the number of children aged 10 - 18 under local authority who have;
- Gone missing? Of the current cohort, 30 children have gone missing in the last 12 months.
 - Had police involvement? 20
 - Been groomed by adults after going into LAC? 2
 - Had a relationship that resulted in pregnancy?
 - Had a relationship that resulted in parenthood? 4
6. Of the children currently under LAC please provide the number of children who have been identified as needing supportive therapy; This could be SEN, mentally, emotionally, physically etc.

Of these children;

- How many have successfully received the therapy recommended?
- How many are in receipt of the therapy recommended?
- How many are waiting to receive the therapy recommended?

Your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply 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:

- states the fact,
- specifies the exemption in question and
- 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 your 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 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).