

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002187
Date 19 April 2018

Domestic Violence

Request:

Please consider the following questions as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any additional information you can offer would also be gratefully received.

1. How many support services do you provide in your local authority for children and young people (aged up to 18) who have lived in a household where domestic abuse has occurred?
[This is not quantifiable as support services \(ie Early Help\) includes all mainstream services delivered within the city – school support, primary and acute health services, mental health services \(which would include programmes such as Headstart\).](#)
2. Please define the type of support services from the following list, stating how many of each.
 - a. Children’s centre-specific service. [Wolverhampton has eight ‘Strengthening Families’ hubs, which offer holistic support including 1-1 and family support for young people who are victims of domestic violence, but in context as victims are usually complex.](#)
 - b. Specific parenting support for victims to address the needs of children and young people - [Freedom programme](#)
 - c. Counselling or other forms of therapy for children and young people. [Haven, Base 25, Barnados, Wolverhampton 360, IFS](#)
 - d. A dedicated children and young people’s service delivered by a domestic abuse service (for example, providing emotional support, group work, activities, after-school or holiday clubs for the children or specific outreach work). [Early Help Services](#)
 - e. Children’s workers at local domestic abuse specialist organisations and services, including refuges. [Haven](#)
 - f. Other – please specify. [The Council has developed a set of lesson plans “Building Safe Relationships” which have been delivered to all schools in Wolverhampton, The Way, HeadStart and other organisations. The lesson plans contribute to awareness-raising and encourage young people who are victims to come forward and seek help.](#)

[The Council is currently out to tender for a community-based service and accommodation based domestic violence service:](#)

The community-based service will consist of a pathway of services that wrap around women and their children who are experiencing violence and abuse. This pathway will support women through universal services, to early intervention and preventions, specialist support and targeted support for women who are at the highest risk.

The accommodation-based service is a refuge and support service including advice, information and advocacy support to women and children fleeing domestic violence and abuse. The purpose of Refuge provision is for victims and their children to have a safe space from the perpetrator, to be away from the domestic violence and abuse and decide what they need to do to ensure they keep themselves and their children safe and to minimise the impact that domestic violence and abuse has on their family. The aim of refuge provision is to equip women to make informed decisions on how best to achieve positive outcomes for both themselves and their children.

3. How many children and young people (aged up to 18) were referred to support services in your local authority for children and young people who have lived in a household where domestic abuse has occurred, in each of the following financial years?
 - a. 2010/11 – We are unable to report on this year
 - b. 2015/16 – 3080 children’s social care referrals associated with 2541 children where domestic violence was a concern in their current and/or previous household
 - c. 2016/17 – 3387 children’s social care referrals, associated with 2884 children where domestic violence was a concern in their current and/or previous household.

4. How many children and young people (aged up to 18) accessed support services in your local authority for children and young people who have lived in a household where domestic abuse has occurred, in each of the following financial years?
 - a. 2010/11
 - b. 2015/16
 - c. 2016/17

Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above requested information.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“The Act”), that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

5. How much money have you spent on the support services in your local authority for children and young people (aged up to 18) who have lived in a

household where domestic abuse has occurred in each of the following financial years?

- a. 2010/11
- b. 2015/16
- c. 2016/17

After careful consideration we do not hold the information requested in relation to services specific for children and young people who have lived in a household where domestic abuse. However, we are able to provide the total amount spend on domestic violence services which is detailed below

Financial Year	Total (£000)
2010/11	1,715
2015/16	1,080
2016/17	1,150