

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002521
Date 10 July 2018

Care Leavers

Request:

I wish to request the following data.

In relation to care leavers in receipt of council housing and via contractors (Housing Associations / Groups wholly owned by the council) in 2017 or 2016/17:

- How many have been evicted from their home and what is the amount of rent arrears written off as a result? 0
- What is the average and total amount of rent arrears?
Total arrears £9907.91
Average arrears £267.79

Council tax and housing benefit records do not include any indication that a customer is a care leaver. We do not collect or store this information for all customers.

We do however have a local relief from council tax for care leavers full details of which are available <http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/10309/Council-offers-council-tax-relief-to-young-care-leavers> In 2017/18 we awarded £65,000 relief to 98 care leavers. The responses to the next two questions below are gathered from our records of these 98 customers.

- What is the average and total amount of Council Tax arrears?
The majority of accounts have no arrears. Of those which do, the average amount is £83.82 and the total is £670.59

For care leavers in 2017 or 2016/17:

- What is the average and total cost of housing benefit they received?
The average weekly amount of housing benefit entitlement is £77.08 and the total paid in the year is 100,401.57
- How many were classified as homeless?
Formerly in care 18/20 year old total 7 cases
Vulnerable as having been in care total 3 cases

- How many were classified as a rough sleeping?
0 – Wolverhampton Care Leavers
2 – Coventry Care Leavers
- How many were housed in temporary accommodation (B&Bs, sheltered accommodation, hotels, bedsits), provided by the Council or contractors.
4 cases classified as being formerly in care placed in B & B by the Housing options team of which 3 were included in the combined total of 10 cases above.

20 cases were placed in schemes provided by YMCA and St Georges. - These cases haven't gone through the Housing options pathway.
- Does the council have a policy on whether those who are evicted retain priority housing status or are processed as new applicants? If so, can it be referenced?
N/A