

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0116127
Date 22 January 2016

Care, Supervision and Emergency Protection Orders

Request:

For each year of 2010 to 2014, and from January to March 2015, please provide me with information on:

- How many each of care orders, supervision orders and emergency protection orders were requested by Wolverhampton City Council and how many of each were successfully granted? [This table shows the number of Interim Care Orders, Full Care Orders, Emergency Protection Orders and Supervision Orders granted each year. Please note that this is a count of orders, not children and an individual child may have been granted more than one type of order over multiple years.](#)

Year	Interim Care Orders granted	Full Care Orders granted	Emergency Protection Orders granted	Supervision Orders granted
2010	123	25	10	17
2011	162	45	22	21
2012	175	124	10	38
2013	183	143	17	51
2014	165	166	11	16
2015 (to March)	27	35	0	2

- How many care orders, supervision orders and emergency protection orders have each subsequently become adoption orders by Wolverhampton City Council? [This table shows the number of Placement Orders granted each year for children who were previously on ICOs, FCOs, EPOs or Supervision orders. Please note that it only shows the move from the legal status immediately preceding the placement order for example – if a child has entered care on an ICO, subsequently been granted an FCO and then a placement order they will be counted only in the ‘FCOs moving to Placement Order granted’ column.](#)

There are children who entered care on an EPO or a Supervision Order who were later granted a placement order, however, none of these were a direct move and had a different legal status immediately preceding the Placement Order.

In addition, it should be noted that the order preceding the Placement Order may have been granted in a previous year e.g. a child granted a placement order in 2014 may have been granted their Interim Care Order in 2013.

Year	ICOs moving to Placement Order granted	FCOs moving to Placement Order granted	EPOs moving to Placement Order granted	Supervision Orders subsequently adopted
2010	27	3	0	0
2011	40	4	0	0
2012	56	9	0	0
2013	48	17	0	0
2014	25	23	0	0
2015 (to March)	7	6	0	0

3. What the specific criteria that the Wolverhampton City Council uses prior to a request for a care order, supervision order and emergency protection order being made?
Wolverhampton City Council and any Local Authority take account of legislation contained in the Children Act 1989 with specific reference to section 31 (the threshold criteria) and section 1(3) the welfare checklist when applying for a Care Order. In respect of an application for an Emergency protection order the legislation applicable is section 44 Children Act 1989. We also take into account any assessments completed, prior and current involvement with the family and evidence from other professionals involved.
4. What processes are in place when a request for a care order, supervision order and emergency protection order is unsuccessful for the child/children and families affected by such orders, and?
In respect of care/supervision order proceedings even though the court application may be unsuccessful at an interim stage the proceedings may still remain before the court until the matter is concluded at the final hearing. If an application is unsuccessful at the final hearing then legal services role ends. In respect of an Emergency Protection order if the application is unsuccessful then the court proceedings end. Legal Services would have no further role to play.
In all cases, Children's social care would remain involved and continue to work with and support the children and family under the appropriate process, eg. Child protection.
5. On how many occasions have expert witnesses, such as medical professionals and social workers, provided evidence on the Wolverhampton City Council's behalf in a family court in relation to each care order, supervision order and emergency protection order application?
Official statistics are not kept in relation to expert witnesses for example medical professionals, psychologists/psychiatrists attending court to give evidence. Collating this information would take an inordinate length of time and resources because:
- i) Cases that have been opened and closed during that period which are now archived would have to be retrieved and examined
 - ii) The exact number of files that would have to be retrieved is unknown as Legal Services here do not keep records of when experts have attended at court or whether the matter has been listed for a hearing which requires witness evidence

The same difficulties apply in ascertaining when a social worker has given evidence, but they are more likely than not to give evidence at some point in a contested hearing.