

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 0216112  
Date            22 February 2016

### ***Statutory Duties for Local Authorities Aligned to the Children Act 1989.***

#### **Request:**

Statutory duties for local authorities aligned to the Children Act 1989. Key performance indicators for Local Authorities

#### **Document 1 - Promoting the education of looked after children-Statutory guidance for local authorities (July 2014):**

1. Section 2, Page 5. Does the Virtual School in your authority have a robust procedure to monitor the attendance and educational achievement of looked after children (that includes eligible children) their authority looks after?  
[Yes, the Virtual School Team requests attendance and attainment data from all schools termly. A database is regularly updated with this information. The 16+ EET Worker monitors progress of eligible children termly.](#)
2. Section 5, page 6. What elements of looked after children's (and eligible children) attainment and achievement are reported through the authority's corporate parenting structures?  
[End of key stage levels \(core subjects at KS1/1 and 5+ GCSEs including English & maths at KS4\), HE engagement, EET data for 16+. Attainment and attendance data is reported separately for in-city and out-of-city pupils, as well as for the whole cohort. We also compare attainment of boys and girls and other cohort characteristics.](#)
3. As of the date of this request, does the Virtual School in your authority currently have a strategy in place that outlines how the educational achievement of looked after children will be enhanced? Yes or no  
[Yes.](#)
4. Section 5, page 6. In the 2014-15 academic session what percentage of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) produced, have been assessed as high quality and effective?  
[33%, although this was only based on the autumn term and an analysis from the spring term 2016 showed considerable improvement. Nevertheless a PEP improvement action plan is being formed to address this issue.](#)
5. Section 7, page 7. In 2015 how many fostering providers did your authority

commission to deliver fostering services?

33 External Providers, and 2 Internal Providers, therefore 35.

6. Section 7, page 7, leading on from question 5, how many of those fostering providers does the authority have a robust evidence base on, that clearly demonstrates that they prioritise the educational achievement of looked after children?

As corporate parents we have responsibility for meeting all the needs of our LAC, and we have systems in place that review our children on a regular basis through application of professional social work procedures and multi-agency review panels.

7. Section 12, page 9. In the 2014-15 academic session, what measures did the Virtual School use to assess the impact of Pupil Premium funding for looked after children?

A clear policy on PPG use has been issued to all schools and social care teams. Further guidance on appropriate use of the PPG has been provided by the Virtual Head. PPG has been repeatedly discussed by the Virtual Head at a termly Designated Teachers Forum. The Virtual School Team audits 50% of all PEP – at least one for each child – and follows up any issues with school and social worker. This includes data on how the PPG is utilised. Virtual School Team members are linked up with every Wolverhampton school and communicate with Designated Teachers regularly to ensure that appropriate education support (including PPG use) is in place and that good progress is being made. The VSH provides training to Designated Teachers, carers and social workers on correct use of the PPG and the Virtual School Team attend many PEP meetings (particularly for LAC who are disengaged or underachieving) and provide challenge & support to schools on this area.

8. Section 22, page 11. In the 2014-15 academic session, how many of the authority's looked after children (aged up to 17), (that were in education), were educated in an educational institution judged as outstanding or good by Ofsted?

80% (year 1 to year 11).

9. Section 27, page 13. In the 2014-15 academic session, how many of the authority's looked after children were excluded from school on at least one occasion?

28

10. In the 2014-15 academic session, how many of the authority's looked after children aged 19-25, returned to education or training and were supported by the authority?

22 Young People.

As standard we only keep information on young people up to the age of 21.

**Document 2 -Promoting the health and well-being of looked after children, statutory guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England, March 2015:**

11. Section 40 page 15. In 2015, what number of young people entered the care of your authority? **144 children and young people became looked after in 2015.**
12. Section 40 page 15. In 2015 what number of the young people that entered the care of your authority had a statutory **initial health assessment?**  
**144.**
13. Section 40 page 15, In 2015 what number of the young people that entered the care of your authority, refused to have an **initial health assessment?**  
**As question 12.**
14. Section 42, page 15. In 2015 what number of the young people that entered the care of your authority, had their emotional health assessed by a **registered medical practitioner** (a person qualified to assess mental health) as part of their **initial statutory health assessment?**  
**None.**
15. Section 42, page 15. In 2015 what number of the young people that entered the care of your authority, were assessed as needing support with their emotional well-being?  
**We have established that the Council does not hold the above information in a reportable format. Thus we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.**
16. Section 42, page 15. In 2015 what number of the young people that entered the care of your authority and were assessed as needing support for their emotional well-being, received a therapeutic intervention from a registered medical practitioner?  
**As question 15.**
17. Section 42, page 15. In 2015 what number of the young people that entered the care of your authority, had their mental health assessed by a **registered medical practitioner** (a person qualified to assess mental health) as part of their **initial statutory health assessment?**  
**None.**
18. Section 42, page 15. In 2015 what number of the young people that entered the care of your authority, were assessed as needing support with their mental health?  
**We can confirm that following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.**

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees

regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary, we cannot easily gather this information via a report as it is not held centrally. In order to determine the information you have requested, we would need to manually interrogate various systems/files. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

19. Section 42, page 15. In 2015 what number of the young people that entered the care of your authority and were assessed as needing support for their mental health, received a therapeutic intervention from a registered medical practitioner?  
As question 18.
20. In 2015, what number of the total population of the authority's looked after children received an intervention with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS)?  
The number of LAC receiving CAMHS interventions in 2015 is 109.
21. In 2015, how much did the authority spend on CAMHS provision?  
The LA Funding for CAMHS is £520,552.
22. How does the authority assess the impact of the CAMHS interventions delivered?  
Impact of CAMHS intervention is done on an individual case basis through the monitoring of outcomes and regular health assessments , and in addition the work of the LAC CAMHS team is reported annually to the Corporate Parenting Board, and monitored via the CCG.

**Document 3-The children Act 1989, guidance and regulations, Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for care leavers. October 2014:**

23. Section 4.4, page 34. How many former relevant young people have received a PA to support their education or training aligned to section 23C (3) (a) of the 1989 Act?  
  
114 young people
24. Section 4.5, page 34. How much has the authority spent in 2015 on expenses associated with employment for former relevant young people, section 23C (4) (a)?  
Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above requested information as we cannot report on this as there

is no specific budget for EET.

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".

25. Section 4.5, page 34. How much has the authority spent in 2015 on expenses associated with education and training for former relevant young people, section 23C (4) (b)?  
As question 24.
26. Section 7.11, page 62. Does the authority have a joint protocol with your Housing department that outlines clear arrangements to offer care leavers preference to social housing, through the housing authority allocations scheme?  
Yes.
27. Section 7.12, page 62. In 2015, how many and what percentage of looked after children that the authority has responsibility for, were placed in bed and breakfast accommodation, aligned to section 23B of the 1989 Act, and regulation 9 (2) of the care leaver regulations?  
One.
28. Section 7.27, page 65. In 2015, how many looked after children have been placed in a staying put arrangement by the authority?  
15.
29. Section 7.30, page 66. In 2015, how much did the authority pay for a staying put arrangement, aligned to section 23CZA (4) of the Children Act 1989? 30. Section 8.8 and 8.9, page 78. Does the authority have a financial policy that outlines how they will support young people to enhance their life chances?  
Yes or no  
Staying put expenditure - £57,227.  
Yes
31. Section 8.19, page 80. In 2015 how many of the authority's care leavers were entitled to receive the setting up home allowance?  
126 young people.
32. Section 8.19, page 80. In 2015, how many of the authority's care leavers received the setting up home allowance?  
126 young people.
33. Section 8.19, page 80. In 2015, what was the amount awarded to the authority's care leavers for each setting up home allowance?  
£2,000.

34. In the year 2015 how many of the authority's looked after children were prosecuted with a criminal conviction?  
33 individual LAC prosecuted with conviction.
35. In 2015 how many of the authority's looked after children became teenage parents?  
10 young people.
36. What is the authority's current Ofsted rating for their Children Services (or new rating for the inspections of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers)?  
Safeguarding – Adequate  
LAC - Good