

## Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0316138  
Date 24 March 2016

### *Children in Care and Substance Misuse by Parents*

#### Request:

Can you provide answers for the financial years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 please.

1. How many children were taken into care in your council area during each financial year?
2. How many of these children were taken into care for substance misuse by a parent as a contributing factor?
3. How many referrals were there for unborn children to be taken into care because of the mother being on drugs when pregnant/substance misuse by a parent as a contributing factor?

Please see our responses provided in the table below in answer to your above questions.

	Q1	Q2	Q3
	Taken into care	Subs Misuse Parent	Unborn Subs Misuse Parent
2011/12	236		
2012/13	237		
2013/14	323	46	15
2014/15	238	42	17
2015/16	131	26	10

Please note that the numbers indicated in question 3 are also part of the question 2 cohort e.g. in 2013/.14 46 of the 323 children who were taken into care with

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substance misuse by a parent recorded as a contributing factor. Of these 46, 15 were referrals that were received before the child was born.

In respect of question 2 and question 3 above for the years 2011/12 and 2012/13, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information as the recording framework for identifying the factors specified was not in place then. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to these years and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of 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".