

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003443
Date 08 April 2019

Children missing from out of area care placements

Request:

Please find attached a Freedom of Information request to your local authority children's social care services concerning your placement of looked after children in out of area care placements.

There is a particular focus those children who go missing from such placements.

Looked after children: numbers and placements

1. How many children were looked after by your local authority in the following periods of time
 - a) Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 = 781
 - b) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 = 819
 - c) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017 = 820
 - d) between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 = 907

2. How many children were looked after by your local authority in the following periods of time
 - e) At 31 March 2019 = 624
 - f) at 31 March 2018 = 648
 - g) at 31 March 2017= 641
 - h) at 31 March 2016 = 657

3. How many looked after children at 31 March of each year specified below were placed in the following settings outside your local authority boundaries?
 *For questions 3 and 4, data for year ending 2018-19 is not available currently, as we have yet to complete and validate numbers for the statutory return.

Code	Explanation	31 March 2019	31 March 2018	31 March 2017	31 March 2016
H5	Semi-independent living accommodation not subject to Children's Homes Regulations	N/A	0	0	0
K1	Secure Children's Homes	N/A	0	0	0
K2	Children's Homes subject to Children's Homes	N/A	33	25	24

	Regulations				
R1	Residential Care Home	N/A	0	0	0
R2	National Health Service/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care	N/A	2	2	3
R3	Family Centre or Mother and Baby Unit	N/A	0	1	0
R5	Young Offender Institution (YOI) or Secure Training Centre (STC)	N/A	4	0	2
U1	Foster placement with relative(s) or friend(s) – long term fostering	N/A	24	30	21
U2	Fostering placement with relative(s) or friend(s) who is/are also an approved adopter(s) – FFA/concurrent planning	N/A	0	0	0
U3	Fostering placement with relative(s) or friend(s) who is/are not long-term or FFA/concurrent planning	N/A	3	2	0
U4	Foster placement with other foster carer(s) – long term fostering	N/A	200	256	243
U5	Foster placement with other foster carer(s) who is/are also an approved adopter(s) – FFA/concurrent planning	N/A	0	0	0
U6	Foster placement with other foster carer(s) – not long term or FFA/concurrent planning	N/A	63	8	1

4. How many looked after children at 31 March of each year specified below were placed in the following settings inside your local authority boundaries?

Code	Explanation	31 March 2019	31 March 2018	31 March 2017	31 March 2016
H5	Semi-independent living accommodation not subject to Children's Homes Regulations	N/A	0	0	0
K1	Secure Children's Homes	N/A	0	0	0
K2	Children's Homes subject to Children's Homes Regulations	N/A	7	7	7
R1	Residential Care Home	N/A	0	0	0
R2	National Health Service/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care	N/A	0	0	0
R3	Family Centre or Mother and	N/A	0	0	0

	Baby Unit				
R5	Young Offender Institution (YOI) or Secure Training Centre (STC)	N/A	0	0	0
U1	Foster placement with relative(s) or friend(s) – long term fostering	N/A	26	39	26
U2	Fostering placement with relative(s) or friend(s) who is/are also an approved adopter(s) – FFA/concurrent planning	N/A	0	0	0
U3	Fostering placement with relative(s) or friend(s) who is/are not long-term or FFA/concurrent planning	N/A	5	4	0
U4	Foster placement with other foster carer(s) – long term fostering	N/A	107	145	124
U5	Foster placement with other foster carer(s) who is/are also an approved adopter(s) – FFA/concurrent planning	N/A	0	0	0
U6	Foster placement with other foster carer(s) – not long term or FFA/concurrent planning	N/A	82	17	0

5. In the periods of time specified in the table below how many looked after children, who your local authority was responsible for, were placed outside of your local authority boundaries and how many placements did this relate to?

	How many children	How many placements
a) Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	410	551
b) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	427	569
c) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017	426	566
d) between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	453	594

6. In the periods of time specified in the table below how many children were placed in out of area placements more than 20 miles of their home address and how many placements this relates to?

	How many children	How many placements
a) Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	131	167
b) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	137	178
c) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017	152	210
d) between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	182	223

7. Of the children placed outside your local authority boundaries and in the periods of time specified in the table below how many looked after children were placed in distant placements and how many placements this relates to?

	How many children	How many placements
Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	N/A	N/A
b) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	N/A	N/A
c) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017	N/A	N/A
d) between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	N/A	N/A

Looked after children your local authority is responsible for going missing from our of area placements

8. Of the children placed outside your local authority boundaries and in the periods of time specified in the table below how many children went missing and how many missing incidents it relates to?

	How many individual children were reported missing and absent during the same time period?	How many incidents did this correspond to?
Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	28	94
b) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	15	36
c) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017	N/A	N/A
d) between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	N/A	N/A

Data for this question prior to 2016-17 was not reportable.

9. Who is currently commissioned to provide RHIs to looked after children who are placed out of area?

	yes	no
a) Local authority staff from your local authority	x	
b) Local authority staff from the area that the child is placed		
c) External independent provider		
d) A mixture of different providers		
e) None		

10. For the looked after children your local authority is responsible for placed outside of your local authority and for the periods of time specified in the table below how many children went missing from the following placements:

	Unique reference numbers relating to settings that are subject to Ofsted inspections?	Unique reference numbers relating to settings that are inspected by the Care Quality Commission or Independent Inspectorate?	Not subject to inspection?	Foster care placements
1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019				

1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018				
1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017				
1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016				

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".

11. For the looked after children your local authority is responsible for placed outside of your local authority and for the periods of time specified in the table below how missing incidents were reported from the following placements:

	Unique reference numbers relating to settings that are subject to Ofsted inspections?	Unique reference numbers relating to settings that are inspected by the Care Quality Commission or Independent Inspectorate?	Not subject to inspection?	Foster care placements
1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019				
1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018				
1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017				
1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016				

As above

Looked after children from other local authorities placed in your local area

12. In the periods of time specified in the table below how many looked after children were placed in your local authority by other local authorities and how many placements this relates to?

	How many children	How many placements
a) Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	136	n/a
b) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	152	n/a
c) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017	117	n/a
d) between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	51	n/a

13. Out of children placed in your local authority by other local authorities and in the period of time specified in the table below how many children were in distant placements?

	How many children	How many placements
Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	n/a	n/a
b) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	n/a	n/a
c) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017	n/a	n/a
d) between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	n/a	n/a

14. Out of children placed in your local authority by other local authorities and in the period of time specified in the table below how many children went missing and how many missing incidents it relates to?

	How many individual children were reported missing and absent during the same time period?	How many incidents did this correspond to?
Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	n/a	n/a
b) between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	n/a	n/a
c) between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017	n/a	n/a
d) between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	n/a	n/a