

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003540
Date 3 May 2019

Looked After Children

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information regarding the number of Looked After Children with autism (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) in children's homes.

Where possible, please kindly include responses on the attached spreadsheet.

1. Please could you supply the name, job title, email address and telephone number of the commissioner with responsibility for Looked After Children and/or placements in children's care homes.
[Alison Hinds](#)
[Head of Children and Young People in Care](#)
Alison.hinds@wolverhampton.gov.uk
01902 553035

*For questions 2 through 5, please supply the following information **as a snapshot at the end of the year** for financial years 2014/15 to 2018/19.*

In answer to questions 2 – 5 below

[In response to questions 2 – 5 below, please see attached table providing you with information.](#)

2. How many Looked After Children in the local authority have; (a) an ASD (primary type of need) and (b) SEMH (primary type of need)?
3. Of the Looked After Children with ASD (primary type of need) and SEMH (primary type of need) (Q2), how many are funded by the local authority in children's homes (excluding secure units and hostels)?
4. Of the Looked After Children with ASD (primary type of need) and SEMH (primary type of need) funded by the local authority in children's homes (Q3), how many are in; (a) in-house/local authority children's homes and (b) independent children's homes?

5. Of the Looked After Children with ASD (primary type of need) and SEMH (primary type of need) in children's homes (all, in-house/local authority and independent) (Q3 & 4), how many are in out of area placements?
6. What is the local authority's total expenditure on children's home placements (all, in-house/local authority and independent) for Looked After Children with ASD (primary type of need) and SEMH (primary type of need) for each of the financial years 2014/15 to 2018/19?

In response to question 6, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at:

- Section 1(1) (a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.
- The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

In respect of question 6, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information as we do not analyse our spend in the format requested.

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 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".

ASD Figures

| | Q2) Number of Looked After Children with ASD | Q3) Children's Home | Q4a) LA Children's Home | Q4b) Independent | Q5) Out of area placement |
|---------|--|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 2014/15 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2015/16 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2016/17 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 2017/18 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 2018/19 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 |

SEMH Figures

| | Q2) Number of Looked After Children with SEMH | Q3) Children's Home | Q4a) LA Children's Home | Q4b) Independent | Q5) Out of area placement |
|---------|---|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 2014/15 | 82 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 6 |
| 2015/16 | 82 | 22 | 1 | 21 | 14 |
| 2016/17 | 74 | 20 | 0 | 20 | 14 |
| 2017/18 | 68 | 24 | 0 | 25 | 18 |
| 2018/19 | 68 | 24 | 0 | 24 | 18 |