



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 003566  
Date            13 May 2019

### ***16+ support and accommodation***

#### **Request:**

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) in relation to 16+ Support and Accommodation provision:

#### **16+ Support and Accommodation Statistics**

Please advise;

1. The number of 16+ Support and Accommodation provisions/homes operated by the Local Authority as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018;  
[The local authority operates 1 supported accommodation provision and has done so both at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, and 2019.](#)
2. The number of 16+ support and accommodation provisions/homes operated by an Independent (private or voluntary) provider within your Local Authority as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, please include the number of providers and where possible, the number of homes within your Local Authority area;  
[We are only aware of the providers within the Local Authority that we purchase packages of care from. The number of 16+ support and accommodation provisions/homes operated by an Independent \(private or voluntary\) provider that we purchased packages of care from at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 is 12.](#)

#### **LAC and Care leaver Statistics**

Please advise;

3. The number of current young people looked after by your local authority turning 16 in the next year;  
[There are 45 children that will turn 16 in the next year who are currently in care](#)
4. The number of young people living within a Local Authority managed 16+ support and accommodation provision/home;  
[There are currently 12 young people living within a Local Authority managed 16+ support and accommodation provision/home](#)
5. The number of young people currently placed within a 16+ support and accommodation provision operated by an Independent (private or voluntary) provider both within your Local Authority area and outside;

There are currently 13 young people currently placed within a 16+ support and accommodation provision operated by an Independent (private or voluntary) provider. 6 within and 7 outside of the LA

### Framework & Non-Framework Providers & Fees

6. In relation to any Frameworks you currently operate for 16+ support and accommodation operated by an Independent (private or voluntary) provider within your Local Authority, please provide the following information (including Provider name) about the number of young people placed with 16+ support and accommodation provision operated by an Independent (private or voluntary) provider within your Local Authority, the average weekly fee paid for these placements, per type specified and whether the fees include any discounts agreed with said Provider. Please also advise the **totals** for all placements in each type specified i.e. total average weekly fee & total no of young people in placement.

Please use the example format below and return in an excel spreadsheet if possible: The Council considers that the information you have requested, which we have identified above, is exempt from disclosure under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 43(2) of the Act permits the Council to withhold information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding it.

We should explain that, under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Council considers that to disclose the information you have requested, at this stage, would prejudice the commercial interests of the providers and this information is therefore exempt from disclosure.

This information is commercially sensitive to the providers and it is important to their competitiveness that they are able to remain as a participant in the market.

When considering public interest for and against disclosure of this requested information, the Council considers that the public interest in withholding the information from disclosure to the wider world outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The reason for this is by releasing the information it would be potentially damaging to the business of the provider to share their pricing with third parties and would likely prejudice the commercial interest of the parties concerned. The Council considers that it would not be in the public interest to release this information as it is likely to be damaging to the business of the provider. It might also have a negative impact on fair competition in future tender processes and that it is not common knowledge and would likely be used by competitors in a particular market to gain a competitive advantage. The Council also considers that disclosure of such information would be damaging to the Council's commercial interest as it would be likely to:

- (a) discourage companies/individuals from providing the Council with commercially sensitive information in the future or undertaking contracts with the Council;
- (b) adversely affect the Council's bargaining position during future contractual negotiations.

In applying the public interest test the Council gave careful consideration to the arguments for and against disclosure. When considering factors which would favour disclosing the information, the Council had to assess whether disclosure of the information would:

- Allow for more informed debate on the issue;
- Promote accountability and transparency for our decisions and in our spending of public money; and
- Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions.

Against these considerations the Council had to balance the likelihood of disclosure having an adverse affect on the commercial interest of the providers concerned and the Council itself.

Having taken into account the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council decided that the public interest in this case is best served by maintaining the exemption and by not disclosing the information requested, at this stage. The Council considers that the possible benefits of disclosure are outweighed by the real risk of causing prejudice to the commercial interests of the providers concerned and the Council itself.

In this case there is an overriding public interest in ensuring that companies are able to compete fairly and in ensuring there is competition for public sector contracts.

<b>Framework</b>			
<b>Number of CYP in placement</b>	<b>Total Weekly Cost</b>	<b>Average Weekly Cost</b>	<b>Number of providers</b>
5	£7766.94	£1553.39	4

7. As per question 6, please provide the same information; however, this time in relation to Non-Framework Providers i.e. where the Local Authority (LA) has placed with Independent 16+ support and accommodation Providers using a Spot Purchase mechanism because the Provider is not on a Framework with the LA. Please also advise the **totals** for all placements in each type specified i.e. total average weekly fee & total no of young people in placement. Please use the example format below and return in an excel spreadsheet if possible: [As per question 6, commercially sensitive.](#)

<b>Non-Framework</b>			
<b>Number of CYP in placement</b>	<b>Total Weekly Cost</b>	<b>Average Weekly Cost</b>	<b>Number of providers</b>
3	£3665.50	£1221.83	3

8. Provide details of any e-sourcing portals used by your local authority to advertise tender opportunities for 16+ Support and Accommodation Provision:

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

The portal address is [www.wolverhamptontenders.com](http://www.wolverhamptontenders.com), opportunities over £25000 also appear on Contracts Finder <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>

Opportunities over the OJEU limits also appear on TED <https://ted.europa.eu/TED/search/search.do>

9. Please provide the contact details for the team within your local authority that source placements for young people requiring 16+ Support and Accommodation Provisions: [The City of Wolverhampton Council Personalised Support Team](#) who can be contacted on the following email address: [placementteam@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:placementteam@wolverhampton.gov.uk);