CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Response to Request for Information

Reference   FOI 003674
Date   17 June 2019

Abuse Linked to Faith or Believe

Request:

Please could you tell me the number of cases referred to the Police recorded where a child was accused of witchcraft or possessed by an evil spirit for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

For each financial year please also provide the following information.

1.   How many accused were accused of being a witch or possessed by an evil spirit?

2.   How many siblings did each of these children who were accused have?

3.   The gender, ethnicity and age at the time of referral for each accused child.

4.   The gender, ethnicity and age at the time of referral of each non- accused sibling.

5.   The religion of the family.

6.   Who accused the child(ren) of being possessed e.g. mother, father,   faith leader?

7.   What type of abuse did each accused child experience (physical, sexual, emotional or neglect)?

8.   For each accused and non-accused child, whether they were removed from their parent/carer's care by the local authority.

9.   For each accused and non-accused sibling, whether they were made subject of a child protection plan.

   In response to your above questions, 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 your above questions, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information 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".