

10 August 2020

## Response to Request for Information

### Looked-after Children During the Pandemic

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that City of Wolverhampton Council holds the information you requested. However, we are withholding some of the information since we consider that the following exemptions apply to it. Please see our response below marked in blue.

### Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you tell me:

- 1) a) How many children were placed by the local authority in registered children's homes or with foster carers, during the period March 1st 2020-June 1st 2020?  
42
- b) How many children were placed by the local authority in registered children's homes or with foster carers, during the period March 1st 2019-June 1st 2019?  
57

For children referred to foster carers, please only include placements lasting more than 14 days - i.e not short term respite care provisions.

- 2) How many children were placed by the local authority into registered children's homes and/or foster placements lasting more than 14 days:
  - a) within the authority area  
01/03/2019-01/06/2019 – 40  
01/03/2020-01/06/2020 – 22
  - b) out of the authority area
    - i. For those children placed out of area, please provide information on the distances children were placed in miles. Please organise this by the number of children placed 0-10 miles, 11-20 miles, 21-30 miles, 31-40, 41-50 miles, 51-100miles, 100+ miles.  
01/03/2019-01/06/2019 – 21  
0-10 Miles – 10  
11-20 Miles – 6  
21-30 Miles - \*  
31-40 Miles – \*

City of Wolverhampton Council  
Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1SH

 wolverhampton.gov.uk

 @WolvesCouncil

 WolverhamptonToday

41-50 Miles – \*  
51-100 Miles – \*  
100+ Miles - \*

01/03/2020-01/06/2020 – 20

0-10 Miles – 6  
11-20 Miles – \*  
21-30 Miles - \*  
31-40 Miles – \*  
41-50 Miles – \*  
51-100 Miles – \*  
100+ Miles - \*

\* With reference to your above questions that have been marked with \* the Council considers that to reveal this information would compromise the safety and security of the small number of children placed and therefore this meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 ("DPA") as:

*"data which relate to a living individual who can be identified - (a) from those data, or (b) from those data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller and includes any expression of opinion about the individual and any indication of the intentions of the data controller or any other person in respect of the individual"*

The Council thus considers that the requested information is caught by the exemption to disclosure contained in Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOI") and the related first condition of Section 40 (3).

To explain further, a disclosure made under the provisions of FOI is judged to be a disclosure to the wider world and here the Council must consider disclosure of personal information in line with the provisions of the DPA.

In this instance it is judged that to break down the number of miles children are placed out of the area by the Council, that this information is for the purposes of supporting the small numbers of individual children and not for any wider disclosure purposes.

Individuals involved would also have no reasonable expectation that their location would be disclosed and published to the world-at-large.

City of Wolverhampton Council  
Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1SH

 [wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://wolverhampton.gov.uk)

 @WolvesCouncil

 WolverhamptonToday

Any disclosure of this information would be judged in this instance to breach DPA principles, notably the first principle – that of fair and lawful processing and the second principle-that of processing for specified and not-incompatible purposes. Details will therefore not be provided in this instance.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FoIA.

Ideally please use the children's previous home or school as the starting point for calculating distance. If unknown, please use the authority's HQ address.

- 3) How many looked-after children were placed into unregulated provisions including independent and and/or semi-independent provisions during the period March 1 - June 1 2020?

\*

a. Where possible please provide the ages of children at the time of placement in the following provisions:

i. Under 16 - \*

ii. 16-17 - \*

iii. 18 - \*

\* Please see our response above.

- 4) How many looked-after children residing in foster care have been re-homed by the authority in the period March 1st-June-1st 2020?

\* Please see our response above.

Re-homed refers to children who have left the foster family they were initially placed with, and have subsequently been placed in an alternate provision - this could include a placement with another foster family, a children's home or an alternate care setting.

- 5) How many emergency or additional care places, beyond existing capacity, has the authority sought in order to provide care to children between the period 1st March - 1st June 2020?

9

(This figure relates to the number of agency placements in this period, however it must be noted that the use of agency placements is a normal process when placing children.)

Please quote the reference number 1723359 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

City of Wolverhampton Council  
Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1SH

 wolverhampton.gov.uk

 @WolvesCouncil

 WolverhamptonToday

Information Governance Team  
Governance  
City of Wolverhampton Council  
Civic Centre  
St. Peter's Square  
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Email: [foi@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:foi@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner, contact details can be found on their website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

I will now close your request as of this date.

City of Wolverhampton Council  
Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1SH

 [wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://wolverhampton.gov.uk)

 [@WolvesCouncil](https://twitter.com/WolvesCouncil)

 [WolverhamptonToday](https://www.facebook.com/WolverhamptonToday)