

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002655
Date 10 August 2018

Care Leavers and Homelessness

Request:

I apply under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following information about care leavers through the 12 questions making up this request on the following themes:

- Numbers remaining in contact with the local authority post-21.
- Incidences of homelessness for care leavers
- Receipt of Discretionary Housing Payments
- The application of Shared Accommodation Rate of Local Housing Allowance

1. As of 1 April 2018, how many care leavers are living in your area?

In respect of question 1, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information. We would not be able to answer how many live in Wolverhampton as we would not know how many care leavers originally not from Wolverhampton now live in the city.

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".

However, we have provided you figures below that show how many care leavers are the responsibility of Wolverhampton's area as 1 April 2018 and hope this information will be of use.

Aged 18-21	Aged 22-25
283	148

2. Since 1 April 2018, how many care leavers aged 22-25 have got in touch to request the services of a Personal Advisor or support for the following purposes? Please note that if the response to a question is 0, please mark as such. If you do not hold or collect data, please mark as X.

	Number
Total number of care leavers aged 22-25 who got back in touch	33 young people got back in touch overall with 28 of these wanting an ongoing service.
Number of care leavers aged 22-25 who got back in touch because of housing difficulties or homelessness	4

3. How many care leavers aged 18-21 presented as homeless to the council in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
11	6	9

4. How many care leavers aged 22-25 presented as homeless to the council in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
0	1	2

5. How many care leavers aged 18-21 received discretionary housing payments in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18

6. What was the value of discretionary housing payments paid to care leavers aged 18-21 in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
£	£	£

7. How many care leavers aged 22-25 received discretionary housing payments in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18

8. What was the value of discretionary housing payments paid to care leavers aged 22-25 in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
£	£	£

9. How many care leavers aged 18-21 receiving discretionary housing payment (question 5), were living in the private rented sector in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18

10. How many care leavers aged 22-25 receiving discretionary housing payment (question 7), were living in the private rented sector in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18

11. What was the total amount of Discretionary housing payment made by the council in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
£	£	£

12. How many care leavers aged 22-25 that received Discretionary Housing Benefit had the shared accommodation rate limit applied to their housing benefit entitlement in each of the following years?

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18

In respect of questions 5 to 12, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information as we do not hold an indicator in our housing benefit system or DHP records to identify someone as a care leaver.

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:

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

"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".

However, we can inform you that full details of the analysis is available on our DHP payments are published are the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/use-of-discretionary-housing-payments-financial-year-2017-to-2018>