



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0115143
Date 26 February 2015

Looked After Children

Request:

1. How many Looked after Children ("LAC") is the local authority responsible for currently, and for each of the last five years (2014 included)?

Wolverhampton City Council is currently responsible for **784** Looked After Children (LAC)

The number of LAC over the last 5 years is as follows:

Year		LAC on 31/12
2010	461	604
2011	545	696
2012	636	780
2013	740	931
2014	778	1022

2. How many LAC are currently placed with independent care provision?

435 LAC are currently placed in independent care provision i.e. not Local Authority or Government provision

3. How many LAC are currently placed in residential care, fostering care, other provision?

Of the current LAC:

- a. 52 are in residential care
- b. 571 are in foster care
- c. 143 are in other provision – this includes placed for adoption, placed with parents, YOI or prison and health care setting (but not including independent living)

4. Currently and for each of the last 5 years, how many LAC that are in foster care:

1. Are placed in Local Authority provision and how many are placed with Independent Fostering Agencies?

Of the current LAC in foster care: **171** are placed in Local Authority Care and **349** are placed in Independent foster care.

Of those LAC placed in foster care at any point during the calendar year:

Year	Placed in Local Authority Care	Placed in Independent Foster Care
2010	424	182
2011	366	329
2012	342	437
2013	354	558
2014	360	667

2. Are placed in county and how many out of county?

Of the current LAC in foster care: **208** are placed within the local authority boundaries and **312** are placed outside the local authority.

Of those LAC placed in foster care at any point during the calendar year:

Year	Placed in Local Authority Boundaries	Placed Outside Local Authority
2010	253	253
2011	350	345
2012	351	428
2013	371	541
2014	435	592

5. Does the LA operate a framework agreement or preferred provider lists or other contractual arrangements for foster care? If so:

- i. How many IFAs are on each tier of the framework agreement / preferred provider list?
- ii. How long does the current arrangement run for?
- iii. What are the key terms of the arrangement?
- iv. What is the specified weekly fee rate?

Wolverhampton City Council does not operate a framework agreement or have a preferred list of providers in its own right.

Wolverhampton City Council is part of a sub-regional framework agreement which expires at the end on March 2015. The framework is managed by Staffordshire County Council who hold the details of the framework arrangements including the number of IFAs on each tier and the key terms. A request would need to be made to them for this information. However, it is unlikely that details of fee rates would be made available as this is commercially sensitive information.

1. What OFSTED rating does the LAs foster services current have?

Good

2. How much does the local authority spend annually on:

1. Residential care for LAC

2014/15 Budget £3.8 million

2. Private foster care for LAC

2014/15 Budget £13.3 million

3. In-house foster care for LAC

2014/15 Budget £5.5 million

3. How has the total spend on each type of care for LAC changed over the past 3 years?

1. Residential care for LAC

2011/12 £2.7 million

2012/13 £2.7 million

2013/14 £4.3 million

2. Private foster care for LAC

2011/12 £7.7 million

2012/13 £10.3 million

2013/14 £12.8 million

3. In-house foster care for LAC

2011/12 £4.2 million

2012/13 £3.9 million

2013/14 £3.7 million

4. Please list all independent foster care providers to the Local Authority detailing – company name, number of children in placement, total spend for the last financial year.

This question is exempt under Section 40 Personal Information

Section 40 Personal information

This exemption concerns personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 applies to two distinct types of requests for information:

(1) if you ask for our own personal data, the information is exempt (but the request will be handled under the Data Protection Act instead): and

(2) if you ask for someone else's personal data, then that information will be exempt if its disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998 (or certain other provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998).

These figures given together could identify both individual children and fois figure was very low and as such could lead to identification of individuals. We have therefore applied section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act to this part of your request.

5. What is the average weekly fee paid to independent providers of foster care?

£785.00 per week