



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0415110
Date 28 April 2015

Social Workers

Request & Response:

I am writing to request information about social workers. I would like the following information broken down annually for the last three years up to the time this request is answered (2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15). Please be consistent in using either financial or calendar years.

I would also like the information broken down into children & families social workers, and adult care social workers.

- a) The number of social workers that took time off work for reasons related to stress, compared to the total number of social workers employed by the council. * [See below](#).
- b) The average number of days taken off work due to reasons related to stress (for those social workers who did take time off due to stress). * [See below](#).
- c) The estimated cost to the council of these absences. * [See below](#).
- d) The total amount spent by the council on agency social workers

[The total amount spent by the council on agency social workers in Children & Families:](#)

[2012/13 £1.6 million](#)
[2013/14 £2.3 million](#)
[2014/15 £3.9 million](#)

[Adults cost element is as follows :](#)

[2012/13 £1.0m](#)
[2013/14 £1.0m](#)
[2014/15 £865,000](#)

[The values given may include a small amount relating to Admin or other support staff, as separate totals, are not available.](#)

e) The average number of cases held by each social worker, and the highest number of cases held by a social worker at any one time.

Based on a current snapshot of caseloads (as at 27th May 2015)

Children's & Families Social Workers:

Average number cases: 15

Highest number cases: 37

Adult Social Workers:

Average number cases: 11

Highest number cases: 30

We do not currently hold historical data about average social work caseloads, the caseload information included in our response is based on a current snapshot of active cases (as at 27th May 2015).

* Due to system replacement we are unable to identify reasons for absence in 2012/2013. Please find below the rest of the information you have requested.

Social Worker Stress Related Absences 2013/2014		
	Children's Services	Adult's Services
Number of Social Workers who have had a stress related absence	25	7
Total number of Social Workers	169	70
Average number of days taken off due to stress	47	48.7
The estimated cost to the council for these absences	£185,000	£45,000

Social Worker Stress Related Absences 2014/2015		
	Children's Services	Adult's Services
Number of Social Workers who have had a stress related absence	19	10
Total number of Social Workers	185	80
Average number of days taken off due to stress	51.3	11.2
The estimated cost to the council for these absences	£170,000	£16,000