

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 121575
Date 15 December 2015

Fostering Services

Request:

I am hoping that you are able to assist with an urgent freedom of information request. Please provide me with further information relating to fostering services within the council.

1. What was your total spend (Exclusive of VAT) on fostering services through Independent fostering agencies during:
 - a) April 2014 – March 2015 Financial Year? [14/15 £20.3 million](#)
 - b) April 2013 – March 2014 Financial Year? [13/14 £17.1 million](#)
 - c) April 2012 – March 2013 Financial Year? [12/13 £13.8 million](#)

2. How many children were placed with foster carers using independent fostering agencies during:
 - a) April 2014 – March 2015 Financial Year?
[484 LAC in agency foster at some point during 14-15 FY](#)
 - b) April 2013 – March 2014 Financial Year?
[502 LAC in agency foster at some point during 13-14 FY](#)
 - c) April 2012 – March 2013 Financial Year?
[373 LAC in agency foster at some point during 12-13 FY](#)

3. How many children are currently placed using independent fostering agencies?
[279 with an agency foster carer as at 30/12/15.](#)

4. How many children do you currently have waiting for a foster carer?
[None at present.](#)

5. Do you have a framework agreement in place for independent fostering agencies?
 - a) Please advise on the expiry date of the current framework / approved provider list.
 - b) Is the list currently closed or is the authority taking on new independent fostering providers?
[We use the Worcestershire Framework there is currently a tendering process in taking place being led by Birmingham City Council. It will be in use from April 2016. Please contact these authorities directly for further information.](#)

6. Please provide a list of your current, approved suppliers & if applicable, the tier they are placed on. If the contract is split into lots (i.e 5-10 year olds), please clarify which agencies are approved under each lot. / Please advise on number of current placements with each of these agencies / Please provide a fee breakdown of fees charged by each agency.
[We do not operate an approved suppliers list.](#)
7. Please advise on your allowance and pay range for foster carers?
[Weekly fee starts at £174 - £259.](#)
8. Do you provide a birthday allowance to foster carers? If so, how much?
[Birthday allowances starts from £140.33 - £242.08 depending upon the age of child.](#)
9. Do you provide a Christmas / Religious Festival allowance to foster carers? If so, how much?
[Wolverhampton pay one weeks of the child's allowance as advised above – again this depends on the age of the child.](#)
10. Do you provide a Summer holiday allowance to foster carers? If so, how much?
[Two weeks of the child's allowances is paid -again this is dependent upon the child's age as stated above.](#)
11. How many foster carers do you currently have registered direct with the authority?
[300 total approved foster carers.](#)
12. How many children are placed with your local authority foster carers (Excluding Independent Fostering Agencies)?
[174 with an in-house foster carer as at 30/12/15.](#)
13. Please provide me with the following contact names within the authority:
 - a) The name of the senior manager with overall responsibility for commissioning Children's Services.
[Emma Bennett](#)
 - b) The name of the service manager responsible for fostering.
[Daphne Atkinson.](#)
 - c) The name of the officer responsible for the recruitment of foster carers
[Joanne Roberts](#)