

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 121592  
Date            18 December 2015

### ***Social Workers/Managers/Support Staff***

**Request:**

1-How many consultant social workers and managers does the council use, that is not direct employee's in the fostering and adoption teams

Nil

2- How much does the council pay each of these consultants and any other benefits they receive such as car allowance and other travel and petrol expenses for 2014 and 2015

In respect of questions 2 above, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information in the form and level of detail you have requested and would therefore mean creating a new form of data. 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".

3-The total month by month cost of petrol allowances/ train fanes paid to social workers, support staff and managers in the fostering and adoption team financial year 2014-2015

<b>2014</b>	<b>£</b>
April	2,112.76
May	601.09
June	2,212.40
July	1,854.63
August	6,902.99
September	7461.50
October	962.83
November	501.30
December	842.85

<b>2015</b>	<b>£</b>
January	651.60
February	1,096.20
March	781.20

4- breakdown of other expenses paid to same group of staff as above in 2014-2015

<b>2014</b>	<b>£</b>
April	2,112.76
May	601.69
June	2,212.40
July	1,854.63
August	6,902.99
September	7,461.50
October	182.93
November	129.87
December	92.58

<b>2015</b>	<b>£</b>
January	32.98
February	152.27
March	139.52

5-How many social workers and support staff in the fostering and adoption team are there

Adoption = 20 fte Agency = 2.5 fte

Fostering = 21.5 fte Agency = 3 fte

6-How many days sick have these social workers had in 2014 and 2015

2015 Average days sick per employee 6.8

2014 Average days sick per employee 16.6

7- How many social workers have been suspended for poor practices in 2013-2014-2015 and how many were sacked because of misconduct or gross misconduct. also because of poor attendance

2013 – Suspended = 1. Dismissed = 0

2014 – Suspended = 3. Dismissed = 1

2015 – Suspended = 1. Dismissed = 1

8- How is the authority meeting its statutory obligations under The Children Families Act 2014 Section 98 arrangements for living with former foster carers after reaching adulthood

We have a staying put policy which allows young people to live with their previous foster carers post 18.

9-Who is the named local authority officer under Section 99 The Children Families Act 2014 Also I would like details on how they are promoting educational achievements of children who have left care and gone onto higher education

Darren Martindale – Virtual Head for Looked After Children.

The Corporate Parenting & Education Team and the VSH are working hard with the LAC Transitions Team and other key stakeholders to improve access to further education (FE) and higher education (HE) for LAC and Care Leavers:

- The *Aspire2Uni* project is a partnership between Wolverhampton University, Virtual Schools in Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell, and the Creating Chances Trust. There are two elements to this project:
  1. A selected cohort of LAC currently in year 7 and 8 are offered additional support throughout their secondary education, including access to a undergraduate learning mentor employed by the university, to support their educational aspirations. The Creating Chances Trust are also offering high-quality, bespoke work experiences opportunities
  2. Additional events are held at the university for specific year groups, and their carers – workshops, visits, subject tasters etc. Three events were held in the summer term 2015.
- A full-time EET Co-ordinator is being recruited, partly-funded with Pupil Premium, to sit within the LAC Transitions Team. This position is currently being held by Helen Woodvine on an acting basis. This is enabling closer tracking and support for year 11 destinations and closer monitoring of the progress of post-16 LAC in further education or training. It is expected that this will have a positive impact on the numbers eventually entering university, as well as EET figures generally.
- A 16+ learning support agreement (see Appendix 2), which was agreed to be adopted by all West Midlands Virtual Heads, is being established with key local FE providers. The EET Co-ordinator is driving this forward; Wolverhampton College have already agreed to sign up to this.
- LAC Transitions and COPE deliver quarterly training quarterly training to foster carers around further / higher education and raising aspirations. *Aspire2Uni* held a 'carers & enablers' day at Wolverhampton University in the summer term 2015.
- The 16+ PEP is enabling better monitoring and support for post-16 achievement and progression. An HE PEP is currently in development
- ICT Services are working in partnership with the LAC Service to develop improved, and safely monitored, access to ICT devices and internet for post-16 LAC and Care Leavers
- An improved offer of work experience and apprenticeship / traineeship opportunities for LAC and Care Leavers is being developed as part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan, driven by a dedicated EET Action

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Group which is focussing on improving performance in this area for LAC and care Leavers.

10-How many LA foster carers have been recruited and left been a foster carer in 2013, 2014 and 2015

2012 - 2013 – 15 recruited

2013 - 2014 - 12 recruited

2014 - 2015 - 18 recruited