**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000/ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004**

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council’s response to your questions is shown below.

**You asked:**

**1. The number of educational psychologists (EPs) employed by the council as of 1 January 2024, 1 Jan 2023, 1 Jan 2022, 1 Jan 2021 and 1 Jan 2020. Please provide the information for each year separately.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Education Psychologist (all levels) |
| 2020 | 16 |
| 2021 | 16 |
| 2022 | 16 |
| 2023 | 14 |
| 2024 | 14 |

**2. How many vacant EP posts did the council have as of 1 January 2024, and as of the same date for the years 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020. Please provide the information for each year separately.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Education Psychologist |
| 2020 | No information held |
| 2021 | 2 |
| 2022 | 3 |
| 2023 | 4 |
| 2024 | 7 |

**3. How many posts were filled by locum, agency or temporary EPs as of 1 Jan 2024, and as of the same date for 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020. Please provide the information for each year separately.**

The above vacant posts were all filled by agency workers. We did not use temporary or locum EP’s.

During the last 4 years we have seen a gradual increase in staff moving to private practice, either joining private companies or working independently for Agency’s completing statutory work for local authorities. These options provide autonomy and flexibility and a higher level of pay. This has resulted in a national shortage of EP’s for all local authorities.

**4. What is the average salary of employed EPs.**

£55,981.

**5. What is the average daily cost of employed EPs.**

£215.

**6. The average daily cost of the following categories of EPs:
a) Temporary.** - Not applicable, we don’t use this type of cover. **b) Locum.** - Not applicable, we don’t use this type of cover. **c) Agency.** - £520.

**7. The highest daily cost of the following categories of EPs:
a) Temporary.** - Not applicable, we don’t use this type of cover. **b) Locum.** -Not applicable, we don’t use this type of cover. **c) Agency.** - £520.

**8. What was the total spend on locum/agency/temporary EPs for the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23.**

Total spend on agency only

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Actuals |
| 2020/21 | £121,048.98 |
| 2021/22 | £369,853.77 |
| 2022/23 | £410,471.31 |
|  |  |

**9. What is the current and projected spend on locum/agency/temporary EPs for the current financial year.**

Agency only.

Budget: £528,711.00

Actuals: £498,678.17

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