

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

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

You asked:

1. What did you spend on care and education for Looked After Children per year since 2008 (on an annual basis)?

2008-2009 – data not available

2009-2010 - £18,594,866

2010-2011 - £14,869,000

2011-2012 - £16,512,000

2012-2013 - £18,689,000

Within this spend, what was spent on children with:

- 1. Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties**
- 2. Autism spectrum disorders**
- 3. Learning Disabilities**

The amount spent is not recorded under these sub categories. We do have outstanding in-house residential provision for young people with learning and physical disabilities, this is accounted for in the total spends above.

2. How many Looked After Children does that spend represent per year? (ie cost per child / placement)?

We have answered this question using the number of LAC at year-end divided by the total spends at year end. This provides a very general figure as some children may have come into and then left care within that year. The data is collated in such a way that it isn't possible to separate out costs for young people who have been remanded, or those for whom we were paying remand transport costs.

To provide actual costs would require the manual trawl of each young person's care file and a detailed assessment of the services accessed and timescales involved. Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

2008-2009 Not available

2009-2010 - £18,594,860/460 = £40,420

2010-2011 - £14,869,000/426 = £34,900

2011-2012 - £16,512,000/456 = £36,210

2012-2013 - £18,689,000/496 = £37,680

3. How many Looked After Children have you placed annually since 2008 in:

The figures below are year-end figures; numbers will have fluctuated over the year but not significantly. This is the total for in/out of area independent provision.

1. independent sector provision in area

2008 50

2009 54

2010 55

2011 59

2012 80

2013 69

2. independent sector out of area

At least 90% of our external independent fostering agency placements and over 75% of our independent residential provision are within the county. If children were placed outside the county there is a practice standard of placing within 20 miles of Leicester City.

In 2012-2013 16 children were placed in a residential provision outside the county. Their needs ranged from significant learning difficulties to sexual offending and absconding which required an out of county placement.

3. in-house provision

It's not possible to quantify in house provision. It is spread across a range of services; kinship/connected person placements, in house foster care, in house residential and supported lodgings. We have 32 in house residential placements including short break provision for children with complex needs. In house provision is the first option for all placements.

4. What is the total spend per year on independent sector provision since 2008?

Within this spend, what was spent on children with:

2008-2009 £3,586,872

2009-2010 £3,819,813

2010-2011 £4,070,262

2011-2012 £5,351,499

2012-2013 £5,553,801

- 1. Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties**
- 2. Autism spectrum disorders**
- 3. Learning difficulties**

The amount spent is not recorded under these sub categories. Again, to provide actual costs would require the manual trawl of each young person's care file and a detailed assessment of the services accessed and timescales involved. Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager

Information and Support

Leicester City Council

FREEPOST (LE985/33)

New Walk Centre

LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: info-requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.