

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:

We would like to obtain information about children and young people with disabilities and individual budgets / direct payments, could you please respond to the following questions:

For the purposes of this reply we have included only those on the Direct Payments Short breaks scheme. Some children now receive payments for their homecare/personal care but this does not fall under the DP scheme. When personal budgets are eventually rolled out these will be incorporated into this scheme.

1. The number of children and young people with disabilities receiving individual budgets / direct payments in 2009/10; 2010/11; 2011/12 & 2012/13

DATE:	Total No. of Children
April 10-Mar 11	69
April 11-Mar 12	63
April 12/Aug 13	63

Statistics are not held in this format for 2009/10. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

2. What is the value of your current direct payments for children with disabilities and does this change depending on the level of need the child requires? I think this needs to be about hourly rates rather than value and then ask if this is enhanced different levels of need

Each child is assessed according to need and an appropriate package offered. Packages are reviewed at least 6 monthly and changed if needed. Our standard rate is £8/hour, or £65 for an overnight stay. However, this can vary according to the need of the child. Where a child needs 2:1 support the appropriate level of pay is calculated.

3. What was the total value of all direct payments paid to children with disabilities in 2009/10; 2010/11; 2011/12; & 2012/13

DATE:	TOTAL VALUE DIRECT PAYMENT
2009-10	111,933
April 10-Mar 11	165,099
April 11-Mar 12	164,948
April 12/Aug 13	186,628

4. Can you give an indication on what people are spending their money on?

Direct Payments are provided for the facilitation of short breaks. These range from carer's costs to accompany children to activities or take them on outings, occasionally provide activities in the child's or carer's home, or provide overnight stays. It does not cover for mileage or activity costs for the young person.

5. Can you break down who manages the budget of the disabled child/young person:

- Budget is managed by the service user
- Budget is managed by a broker service
- Budget is managed by the Council
- Budget is managed by a Service provider
- Budget is managed by a Family or friend

Parent/carers manage all of the budgets.

6. Have you commissioned a support agency/broker type model to manage people direct payments and if not are you planning to commission this in the future?

We are discussing issues around this area but have made no plans to date.

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department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

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.