

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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the following information regarding children's foster care:

Overall

- 1. How many children do you have placed at the date of your response with in-house Local Authority foster carers and how many with Independent Fostering Providers? Of these could you break down the total number of children who are aged under 10 and those who are over 10 years old?**

PLACEMENT TYPE	Number of LAC aged 10 and under	Number of LAC aged over 10	Total LAC in fostering placements
Internal Fostering	150	96	246
IFA's	11	25	36
TOTAL			282

- 2. Please provide the contact details (name, job title, telephone and email) of staff in the following roles:**
 - Fostering Team Manager** [Mark Tingley, Mark.Tingley@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Tingley@leicester.gov.uk); 0116 454 4241
 - Budget holder responsible for in-house foster care budget** [Mark Tingley](#)
 - Budget holder for independent foster care placements expenditure** [Cheriel O'Neill, Cheriel.O'Neill@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Cheriel.O'Neill@leicester.gov.uk); 0116 454 5213
 - Individual responsible for in-house fostering recruitment** [Mark Tingley](#)
 - Service Lead / Commissioner responsible for use of independent fostering providers** [Cheriel O'Neill](#)

In-House Fostering Service

- 1. How many new foster carer households has your in-house fostering service recruited so far in the financial year 2013/14?**

[22](#) to the beginning of February 2014.

2. Of these, how many of them transferred from an Independent Fostering Provider?

0.

3. How many foster carer households has your in-house fostering service de-registered so far in 2013/14?

17 mainstream; 17 Special Guardianship Orders to Kinship Care.

4. What is the target or anticipated number of new foster carer households your in-house fostering service plans to recruit in the financial year 2014/15

Recruitment target (Excluding kinship) is 36 new foster care households.

5. Please provide a copy of the payment structure (fees and allowances) you offer your in-house foster carers

Payment structure can be found at:

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/social-care-health/fostering-and-adoption/fostering/fostering-payments/>

6. Based on all of your current in-house fostering placements (excluding short break and respite), what is the average weekly cost of a placement with an in-house foster carer?

The average weekly cost is £320; however, this does include respite and short breaks as there is insufficient time to isolate payments and be able to respond to all other aspects of the request.

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.

7. What was your actual and projected budget expenditure for in-house fostering placements in the financial year 2013/14

Projected spend = £4,790,200
Budget = £4,716,900

8. What is your projected budget expenditure for in-house fostering placements in the financial year 2014/15

£4,716,200 + inflation (inflation increase has not yet been notified)

Use of Independent Fostering Providers (IFPs)

1. Does your Local Authority have a tendered foster care framework in place for Independent Fostering Providers?

No

- a. If so, which Independent Fostering Providers are on the contract
- b. Also is this a collaborative contract, and if so which other Local Authorities use it?

2. Based on all of your current independent fostering placements (excluding short break and respite), what is the average weekly cost of your placements with Independent Fostering Providers?

£730

3. What was your actual and projected budget expenditure for independent fostering placements in the financial year 2013/14

Actual - £1,402,544
Projected - £1,932,500

4. What is your projected budget expenditure for independent fostering placements in the financial year 2014/15.

Projected (Budget allocation) - £1,932,500

5. Please provide the names of the 5 largest Independent Fostering Providers in terms of total number of placements within your Local Authority catchment area

Jay Fostering
Compass
Core Assets Fostering
National Fostering Agency

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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.