

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:

Is there a set of protocols for children's services and partner agencies clearly defining procedures, thresholds for referrals and roles and responsibilities for when a child goes missing or runs away from a) home and b) care and when they return? If so, please supply copies for both.

There is a procedure in place for Children and Young People (CYP) who are missing from Care. Please see the attached document. The procedure for CYP missing from Home and Care is currently in draft only. Although work is underway, Leicester City Council is not as yet in a position to publish this procedure.

Therefore, this information is exempt as it is intended for future publication in line with S22 of the Act. This letter acts as S17 refusal notice in respect of this part of your request.

Is there a named person within Children's Services in your area responsible for children who are missing or runaway from home or care? If so, what is their name, position and contact details?

Members of staff names are exempt from release under s40(2) of The Act as they are personal data and this therefore acts as a refusal notice under s.17 of The Act.

The contact details are:

Commissioning LAC
Eagle House
11 Friar Lane
Leicester
LE1 5RB
Tel: 0116 299 5810

Are there separate procedures in place for recording and sharing information between the police, children's services and the voluntary sector and how often is the information analysed to assess patterns of running away from home or care?

There is a multi agency (police/LA/health/education) forum in place which meets on a monthly basis where information is shared in relation to missing children. Specific data around where CYP are going missing from and repeat missing children are also discussed and any trends of missing identified.

In addition to this the police discuss any disruption tactics which need to be employed and assess whether there is any crimes being committed by either the missing YP or any other person involved in the missing incident.

Is there a dedicated project specifically for children who runaway in your local authority?

There is no dedicated project in place as missing from care and home is now part of children's services.

Does the local authority have in place emergency accommodation for children who run away, in any form? If so, please provide details of this accommodation.

We do not have emergency accommodation for CYP who run away. However if CYP are identified as runaways an assessment is undertaken and if they have no place to safely return to they will be accommodated within local placement provision.

How many children in your area received an 'Assessment of Need' following a running away or missing incident of which you were informed, between 6th April 2010 – 5th April 2011?

1,132 CYP reported missing over that period

466 had involvement with the department

73 CYP were Looked After Children

159 had an open allocation to a professional within the local authority

How many children were identified as at significant risk of harm following a running away or missing incident and referred to children's social care between 6th April 2010 – 5th April 2011?

We are unable to provide this information as currently we do not collect this data. Therefore, this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with this section of the Act, this information is not held.

If it is not possible to provide this information for the time period specified, please supply details for most recent time period for which this information exists.

N/A

As well as a police safe and well check, do children who have run away from home or care have access to a Return Interview conducted by Children's Services or a specialist independent person?

All CYP who go missing from care have an allocated social worker who are responsible for conducting the return interviews. Children who are missing from Home who are NOT allocated within the service do not have access to a return interview but safe and well checks are carried out by the police and if they assess that there are additional safeguarding concerns a referral is made to children's services.

If so how many 'return interviews' did your local authority carry out with children who had run away from, a) home and b) care, between 6th April 2010 – 5th April 2011?

If it is not possible to provide this information for the time period specified, please supply details for most recent time period for which this information exists.

We are unable to provide this information as currently we do not collect this data. Therefore, this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with this section of the Act, this information is not held.

Please provide details of all procedures relating to the monitoring of running away incidents.

Please find the relevant document attached.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government 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: FOIA@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:

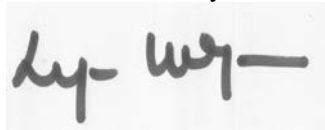
**Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF**

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager