

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, I kindly request the following information in relation to short breaks services for children with a learning disability in your local authority:

1) How many children aged 0-18 with a learning disability were known to social services in a) 2009/10, b) 2010/11 and c) 2011/12?

2) How many children aged 0-18 with a learning disability attended short breaks services, as set out in paragraph 4 ('Types of services which must be provided') of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011', in:

- i. 2009/10**
- ii. 2010/11**
- iii. 2011/12;**

and what is your projection for short breaks service use in 2012/13?

3) Do you have a short breaks services statement in accordance with paragraph 5 ('Short breaks services statement') of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011'?

4) If you have published a short breaks services statement in accordance with paragraph 5 ('Short breaks services statement') of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011':

- i. when was it published?**
- ii. please provide details of your latest statement**

5) How many short breaks services, as set out in paragraph 4 ('Types of services which must be provided') of the 'Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011', closed in:

- i. 2009/10**
- ii. 2010/11**
- iii. 2011/12;**

and are you planning to close any short breaks services in 2012/13?

6) If there have been short breaks service closures within the local authority, have any alternative services been put in place for those who attended the short breaks service?

We do not keep a record that specifically differentiates between learning and physical disability. To provide a break down would require the manual trawl of all service user records. 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.

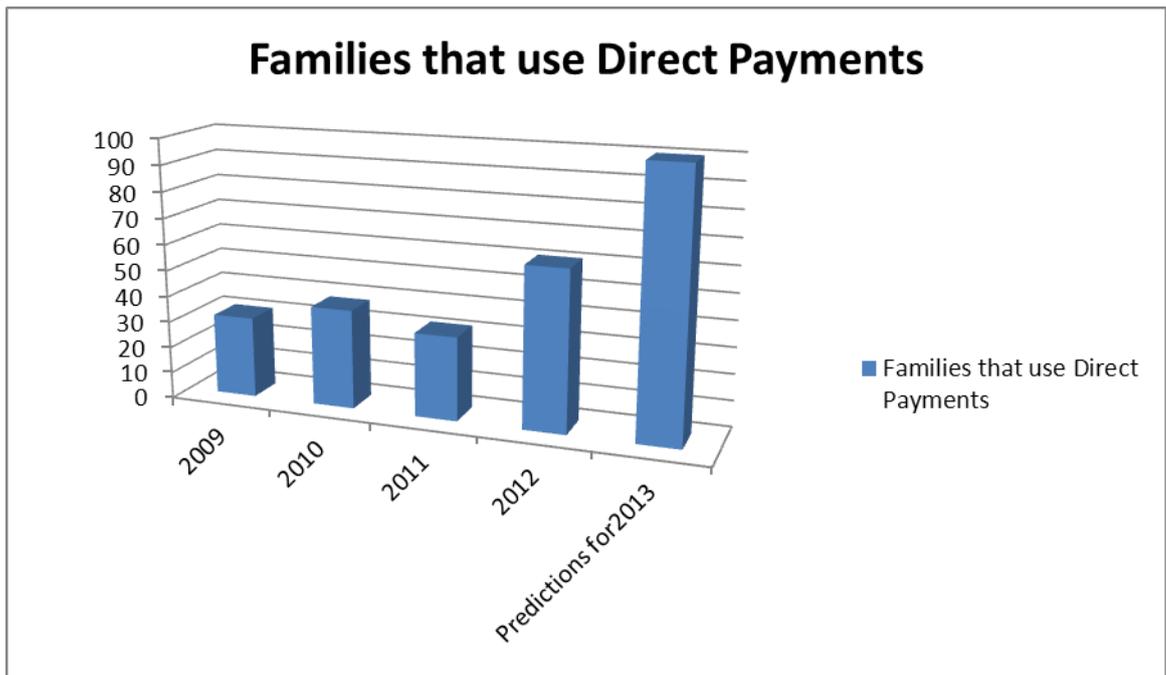
There are 2 ways in which short breaks are provided in Leicester City:

1. Via formal assessment where need is determined and if agreed is provided for via the Disabled Children's Team, we tend to call this statutory provision based on assessed need. These needs are met in various ways i.e. Residential Short Breaks (Barnes Heath House) Family Link, via Direct Payments and via private agency support.

The number of young people that used Barnes Heath House for short breaks are as follows:

i. 2009/10	35
ii. 2010/11	35
iii. 2011/12;	36

Direct Payments allow young disabled people to go on activities alongside their non-disabled friends.



2. General short break provision is also provided in a wider sense via numerous and various providers often within the voluntary sector but also from with our Youth Service. Disabled Children's Services supports this provision in the following ways;
- a) By providing information, training and support to providers on inclusion and how providers can fulfil their obligations under the Equality Act.
 - b) We run a web based activity search where anyone can search for activities across the City
 - c) We offer individual support to disabled children and young people to access activities with a view to independent attendance
 - d) In some cases where young people may always need the support we arrange for continued and on-going 1:1 support to access activities
 - e) The focus of our work has been around developing local provision so that disabled children and young people can have choice and that inclusion is promoted. This has been in partnership with Health to support and train where there are health/behavioural needs.
 - f) The Disabled Children's Service do offer some limited direct provision to children and young people especially those with more complex needs this amounts to approximately 300 individual young people
 - g) The City also provide play scheme funding and the Disabled Children's Service administer a system where additional funding can be given to play schemes to employ additional support workers for disabled children this amounts to on average 130 per year, this is across all school holiday breaks.

The following is a link to the Short Breaks Services Information Statement and was published in October 2011:

<http://tap.leicester.gov.uk/short-breaks/>

There have been no short breaks service closures within the local authority and are not planning to close any short breaks services in 2012/13.

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: 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

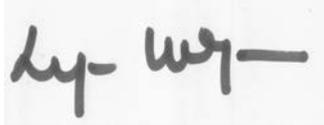
Wilmslow SK9 5AF

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.

Yours sincerely

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

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager