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Date: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Reference number: FOI/CSF/04/10/2013

Dear Simon

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, we received the following request for information from you:

**Would it be possible to get an average cumulative cost per case of having a child on the child protection register... E.G case conferences, allocation of social worker to a family etc.**

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that Hertfordshire County Council does not hold the information you have requested.

**However mindful of our duty to advice and assist we can provide the following indicative costs for Social Worker (SW) hours only throughout the required process:**

#### **Strategy Meeting**

SW has to read historical files before meeting if there has been previous involvement with the family, even for a rough overview this will take at least half an hour plus approx 1 hour for meeting (SW and Team Manager) - plus time to write up discussion approx half an hour.

**2.0 hours**

please note that in several cases there will be more than one strategy meeting.

#### **Agency checks**

normally checks with 4/5 agencies - SW/Professional Assistant (PA) writes and faxes letter and phones agencies.

**2.0 hours**

#### **Child Protection investigation**

SW and PA - this is not easy to give an average for time spent as it depends on each case, but at least half a day to get Child Protection medical done. If child is subject to video interview then this would also take at least half a day. Both of these activities might include transporting the child to the respective meetings, taking them home after and feeding back to the parents about the concerns that have been raised. Liaison with other

professionals with regard to sharing information and checking out facts; probably about 2 hours. Writing up record detailing all the above about 1.5 hours. Discussion between SW and TM throughout this process and writing up decision making about 1 hour.

**12 hours**

### **Initial Child Protection Conference**

Worker has to write the report, have it signed off by a manager, take it to the family to discuss with parent and child (if age appropriate)

**4.0 hours**

Attending the ICPC,

**1.5 hours**

### **Monthly Core Groups**

Worker has to arrange meeting, minute meeting and record. TM attends first Core Group - so 2 x workers at first meeting.

**2.0 hours per meeting**

### **Statutory Visit**

SW visits at least every 4 weeks - may also be involved in doing work with child or parent outside of these Stat visits. Plus write up

**3.0 hours per visit**

### **Liaison with other Agencies**

Contact by phone/email or face to face meetings by SW with all other Core Group members (between Core Groups for updates and info sharing)

**2.0 hours per month.**

### **Review Child Protection Conference**

SW writes report, TM authorises report, SW shares report with parent and child (if age approp) before the meeting

**4 hours per Review**

Attending the RCPC

**1.5 hours**

This adds up to **34 hours per month in the first month** plus a recurrent **7 hours per month** plus the **extra 5.5 hours each month there is a review conference.**

**Each individual child's circumstances will determine how long a child remains on the Child Protection Register.**

**The average hourly pay for a Social Worker varies according to their experience between £13.41 and £17.44, however at the lower end a recently qualified Social worker would require more supervision from a Team manager. An agency social worker costs £25 per hour on average.**

**The above costs do not include management and administrative support costs, the salary costs for school, health and police staff who also work on child protection cases, write reports and undertake home visits, meetings and so on.**

**These costs also exclude the provision of any purchased services to address the parenting issues including domestic violence, substance misuse etc nor do they include services to address the needs of the child for additional support.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference number on this letter. To find out more about Freedom of Information, please visit [www.hertsdirect.org/foi](http://www.hertsdirect.org/foi)

If you are unhappy with the way the County Council has handled your request for information, you may complain through the County Council's complaints procedure which is available at [www.hertsdirect.org/complaints](http://www.hertsdirect.org/complaints)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the complaints procedure you are entitled to ask the Information Commissioner to investigate your complaint. You should write to: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Dunncliffe

**Senior Information Access Practitioner  
Hertfordshire County Council**

*The Information Governance Unit supports Hertfordshire County Council's Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Records Management activity.*