



City of Westminster

Cameron North-Bates

Childrens Services - Delivery Unit
Westminster City Council
Westminster City Hall
10th Floor East
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

Our ref: 1801734

Your ref:

Date: 23 March 2016

Dear Mr North-Bates

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Westminster City Council. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

Please can you tell me how many children are receiving any Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) provision - whether it is provided in an ABA/VB home programme, in an ABA/VB primary or secondary special school or alongside mainstream school at any age in a part-time home/school programme. *ABA is sometimes called VB or Verbal Behaviour.*

None

Please can you then tell me how many of them had Applied Behavioural Analysis due to a tribunal order and how many receive this without a tribunal.

If without a tribunal, had parents initiated legal action but reached settlement with you for ABA before tribunal took place?

This information is not available

Please can you forward me any policy documents that are associated with the awarding of any Applied Behavioural Analysis provision and demonstrate how the decision is made.

The London Boroughs of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster City Council have historically made decisions regarding the provision of Applied Behavioural Analysis based on parental preference and the availability of autism-specific local provision. While, the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham has developed local provision for

children with ASD at Queensmill School and the related mainstream resources bases at Fulham Primary and Fulham College Boys Schools. This provision has been judged outstanding by Ofsted on three consecutive inspections. Queensmill adopts evidence-based practice which has been defended successfully at Tribunal as a consequence ABA has not been awarded in LBHF.

Since 2013 the three Boroughs have adopted a policy of developing local provision for local young people which is suitable, evidence-based, efficient and supports young people in making progress and becoming independent in or near their local community. In taking forward the development of provision for children with autism the Local Authority has sought advice from practitioners with expertise at Queensmill School (please see attached) and educational psychologists (see attached). Decisions about the resources allocated to provide for a child with a statement of SEN or EHC plan are made by a Local Authority designated officer based on parental preference, expert advice and taking into account the duty to provide suitable (evidence-based) efficient education.

Finally, please can you explain your rationale for awarding Applied Behavioural Analysis without tribunal orders. Are your criteria for awarding ABA laid out on your SEND Local Offer page?

Please see above

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Knowledge and Information Management Team
Westminster City Hall
10th Floor East
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP
xxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

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

Tel: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45
Fax: 01625 524510
Web: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Customer Care and Complaints Team