

Durham County Council
Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information request



Reference Number:	FOI20186674NB	12 April 2018
Date Received:	Date: 23-Mar-18	
You Requested:	Requestor: Niilesh Bhalanee	

Dear Durham County Council,

1. Can you please explain your commissioning processes for providers of accommodation and/or support in respect to looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc. Do you spot purchase, have framework agreements or have block contracts in each of these categories?
2. If you have framework agreements and/or block contracts for accommodation and/or support in respect to looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc, please specify when each of these are due to be re-tendered.
3. Do organisations need to go through a pre-registration process to accommodate looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc on a spot purchase basis?
4. Do you have local authority run provisions for looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc? If so, how many of each category are currently accommodated in these facilities?
5. Please specify the number of looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc accommodated currently via:
 - a. spot purchase
 - b. framework agreements
 - c. block contracts

6. How many care leavers/uasc aged 16-17 years old and specified in the answer to question 4 are accommodated in residential children's homes?
7. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a looked after child aged under 16 year in a private residential children's home?
8. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a care leavers/uasc child aged 16-17 in a private residential children's home?
9. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a care leavers/uasc child aged 16-17 in a 24/7 supervised semi-independent provision?
10. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a care leavers/uasc child aged 16-17 in an unsupervised semi-independent provision? Please include the cost of floating support. Please advise if you do not place 16-17 year olds in an unsupervised semi-independent provision.
11. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a care leavers/uasc aged 18-24 in a 24/7 supervised semi-independent provision? Please advise if you do not place 18-24 year olds in a supervised semi-independent provision.
12. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing care leavers/uasc 18-24 year olds in an unsupervised semi-independent provision? Please include the cost of floating support.
13. Who should be approached within the council to discuss spot purchase commissioning, service provision, rates and referrals for accommodating looked after children in residential children's homes? Who is the specific named point of contact?
14. Who should be approached within the council to discuss spot purchase commissioning, service provision, rates and referrals for accommodating and/or supporting care leavers/uasc aged 16-17 years old? Who is the specific named point of contact?
15. Who should be approached within the council to discuss spot purchase commissioning, service provision, rates and referrals for accommodating and/or supporting care leavers/uasc aged 18-24 years old? Who is the specific named point of contact?
16. Who should be approached within the council to discuss framework agreement/block purchase commissioning for accommodating looked after

children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc? Who is the specific named point of contact?

17. Please can you provide me with a list of all of your current suppliers signed up to framework agreements/block purchase contracts for accommodating looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc?

Our Response:

1. Can you please explain your commissioning processes for providers of accommodation and/or support in respect to looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc. Do you spot purchase, have framework agreements or have block contracts in each of these categories?

Residential Care – Durham County Council is part of the NE12 Regional Commissioning Framework enabling us to access placements in residential care and education settings. If we are unable to meet placement needs through the framework, off framework providers will be approached on a spot purchase basis.

Semi-independent placements – contracts which are accessed on a spot purchase basis by care leavers

Care Leavers (over 18's) – Durham County Council has in place a range of commissioned services providing supported accommodation with 24/7 support and support Monday to Friday. These services were originally part of the Supporting People Programme and are now part of the 'preventative' range of services.

UASC - depending on the needs of the UASC, a range of provisions are offered: Supported Lodgings (in-house provision), placements with Independent Fostering Agencies which are commissioned through the NE7 Regional Framework (there are currently no UASC living in foster care placements).

2. If you have framework agreements and/or block contracts for accommodation and/or support in respect to looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc, please specify when each of these are due to be re-tendered.

NE12 Residential Children's Homes and non-maintained special schools – this was tendered late in 2017 and a new framework commenced in February 2018. This flexible solution will be opened regularly throughout its lifetime to enable new providers to join.

NE7 IFA Framework – this is in place until March 2019. During 2018 the regional contract will be re-tendered, market engagement will take place and new providers given an opportunity to join the framework, which will commence on the 1 April 2019.

Supported Lodgings (in-house provision) – ongoing recruitment of supported lodging providers.

3. Do organisations need to go through a pre-registration process to accommodate looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc on a spot purchase basis?

Yes.

4. Do you have local authority run provisions for looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc? If so, how many of each category are currently accommodated in these facilities?

In-house children's homes – 32 Looked After Children (LAC).

Supported Lodgings (in-house)– As of 31st March 2018 there were the following number of young people in placement:

- **Care Leavers – 14 young people.**
- **UASC – 9 young people (3 young people under 18 years and 9 yp over 18 years).**
- **Looked After – 5 young people.**

5. Please specify the number of looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc accommodated currently via:

- a. spot purchase

Current number of off framework children's residential placements – 7
Number of semi-independent arrangements – 20 (see response to Q4 LAC and Care Leaver numbers in external provision)

- b. framework agreements

There are currently 12 LAC in residential home placements with on framework providers.

- c. block contracts

There are no block contracts.

6. How many care leavers/uasc aged 16-17 years old and specified in the answer to question 4 are accommodated in residential children's homes?

There are no care leavers / UASC 16-17 year olds accommodated in residential children's homes.

7. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a looked after child aged under 16 year in a private residential children's home?

£3,817 average cost per week.

8. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a care leavers/uasc child aged

16-17 in a private residential children's home?

Care Leavers and UASC are currently not placed in private residential homes, therefore no average weekly cost can be given.

9. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a care leavers/uasc child aged 16-17 in a 24/7 supervised semi-independent provision?

Costs range from £256.50 to £855.77 per week.

10. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a care leavers/uasc child aged 16-17 in an unsupervised semi-independent provision? Please include the cost of floating support. Please advise if you do not place 16-17 year olds in an unsupervised semi-independent provision.

Care Leavers and UASC aged 16-17 are not placed in unsupervised semi-independent provision. There is always an element of supervision.

11. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing a care leavers/uasc aged 18-24 in a 24/7 supervised semi-independent provision? Please advise if you do not place 18-24 year olds in a supervised semi-independent provision.

Care Leavers/UASC are placed in supervised semi-independent provision. Young people aged over 18 would be expected to claim housing benefit to cover/go towards the cost of the placement.

Weekly costs range from £196.85 and £855.77 per week.

12. What is the 2017/18 average weekly cost of placing care leavers/uasc 18-24 year olds in an unsupervised semi-independent provision? Please include the cost of floating support.

Semi-independent provision is not unsupervised.

13. Who should be approached within the council to discuss spot purchase commissioning, service provision, rates and referrals for accommodating looked after children in residential children's homes? Who is the specific named point of contact?

Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager.

14. Who should be approached within the council to discuss spot purchase commissioning, service provision, rates and referrals for accommodating and/or supporting care leavers/uasc aged 16-17 years old? Who is the specific named point of contact?

Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager.

15. Who should be approached within the council to discuss spot purchase commissioning, service provision, rates and referrals for accommodating and/or supporting care leavers/uasc aged 18-24 years old? Who is the specific named point of contact?

Murray Webb, Commissioning Policy Planning Officer.

16. Who should be approached within the council to discuss framework agreement/block purchase commissioning for accommodating looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc? Who is the specific named point of contact?

Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager.

17. Please can you provide me with a list of all of your current suppliers signed up to framework agreements/block purchase contracts for accommodating looked after children in residential care/looked after children in semi-independent placements/care leavers/uasc?

NE12 Residential Homes Framework:

- **Aberlour Child Care trust**
- **Action for Children**
- **Appletree**
- **Bryn Melyn Care**
- **Chaigeley**
- **Holme Farm**
- **Howard House**
- **Huntercombe**
- **ID Support**
- **Kedlestone**
- **Meadows Care**
- **NEAS**
- **North Lakes**
- **Nugent**
- **Partners in Care**
- **Pathways Care**
- **Pear Tree Projects**
- **Pebbles care**
- **Radical care**
- **Rite Directions**
- **Spark of Genius**
- **St Cuthberts care**
- **Talbot House**

There are no frameworks or block contracts in place in relation to semi-independent placement provision for LAC.

Attachments: not applicable

Exemptions Applied: not applicable

The Public Interest Test: not applicable

Review Procedure

I hope that this information is of assistance. However, if you feel that this particular request has not been complied with fully under the terms of the Act then please put your grounds in writing stating exactly why our interpretation of the Act and guidance has been incorrect and email that to:

foi@durham.gov.uk.

After you have exhausted our internal appeals procedure, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at: Telephone: 01625 545 745 Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Christine Paciorek
Freedom of Information and Data Protection Officer
Information Management Team
Durham County Council