

Our ref: 6443365
3 June 2019

Nikki Thompson
???

Account reference:request-575044-a62a14c9@whatdotheyknow.com

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Request

Please can you provide the following information in an email format.

Who delivers OT support for children as part of the EHCP process for the LEA? For example, is this the local NHS trust, a private organisation or a combination of both.

EHCP OT advice

- The number of requests for OT advice to inform an EHCP that you have commissioned in the past 12 months
- The number of these requests still outstanding
- The average time between requesting the EHCP OT advice and the report being returned to the LEA over the past 12 months.

Reviews

- Number of outstanding EHCP termly / annual / half termly reviews under EHCP provision that are waiting to be completed.
- The average wait time for these reviews to take place.

Out of Area students

The number of children and young people who are attending an education establishment out of area and who's EHCP OT requirements are not able to be met by their education establishments locality OT service.

Intervention

Number of approved occupational therapy treatment hours on EHCP plans for students in the calendar year 2018-19 that are not currently being provided.

Is there a lack of capacity within the locality OT team to provide the required

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volume of EHCP OT intervention required by the LEA?

Please provide the name, email and phone number of the manager responsible for commissioning OT provision on behalf of the LEA.

Response

A reporting tool or mechanism for monitoring is not in place, and therefore we are not readily available to provide this data.

The collation of the response data for this part of the request will exceed the threshold. It is estimated that it would require a trawl of 1,046 records at 10 minutes each = 174.33 hours. The period considered is April 2018 to April 2019 inclusive.

Whilst the Freedom of Information Act provides that any individual is entitled to request access to information held by a public authority, it also recognises that the burden of responding to voluminous requests can place a disproportionate burden on public authorities.

S.12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act provides that:-

The Act “does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

The appropriate limit, for local authorities, is set, by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, at 18 hours or £450 (at the statutory rate of £25 per hour) for the work undertaken in locating, extracting and collating the information requested.

As you will note, the estimate of the time required to collate the information requested would easily exceed the 18 hours limit.

In cases where the time involved in dealing with requests for information would exceed 18 hours, the Council normally offers individuals the option to pay for the additional work over and above 18 hours, at a subsidised rate of £25 per hour. However, where the resources involved in dealing with a request would have detrimental impact on the Council’s ability to provide its core services, the Council is entitled not provide this option, and accordingly, refuse the request outright.

In this case due to the amount of work and resources required to comply with this element of your request, the Council is of the view that the resources involved in responding to your request, even if you were to pay the subsidised statutory rate of £25.00 per hour, would interfere significantly with the Council’s

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ability to provide its core services, as such, the Council considers that it is appropriate to refuse the request outright on the basis of section 12 of the Act.

Reviews

- number of outstanding EHCP termly / annual / half termly reviews under EHCP provision that are waiting to be completed

3404 annual reviews pending

- average wait time for these reviews to take place

12 months

Out of Area students

- number of children and young people who are attending an education establishment out of area and who's EHCP OT requirements are not able to be met by their education establishments locality OT service

Two

Intervention

- number of approved occupational therapy treatment hours on EHCP plans for students in the calendar year 2018-19 that are not currently being provided

Nil

Is there a lack of capacity within the locality OT team to provide the required volume of EHCP OT intervention required by the LEA?

Yes

Please provide the name, email and phone number of the manager responsible for commissioning OT provision on behalf of the LEA

Denise Watts (Interim Head of SEND Commissioning)
denise.watts@birmingham.gov.uk 0121 464 3794

David Bridgman (Head of Special Educational Needs Assessment & Review Service) david.bridgman@birmingham.gov.uk 0121 303 0112

Please quote the reference number 6443365 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to

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ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team
PO Box 16366
Birmingham
B2 2YY
Email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 01625 545 700
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully
Customer Services and Business Support

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