

Our ref: FOIA141 and FOIA142

Date: 24th July 2019

Dear Poppy Damon

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: BEREAVEMENT SERVICES OFFERED BY THE GROUP

Thank you for your request for information about bereavement counselling services offered by the RNN Group, which we received on 3rd July 2019. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Please note that we will be providing a response on behalf of the RNN Group as a whole, rather than any individual college.

The RNN Group main centres of operations are located at the following sites:

Site Name	Address
Rotherham College	Eastwood Lane, Rotherham. S65 1EG
North Nottinghamshire College	Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP
Dinnington Campus	Doe Quarry Lane, Dinnington. S25 2NF
Dearne Valley College	Wath upon Dearne, Swinton. S63 7EW
University Centre Rotherham	Doncaster Gate, Rotherham. S65 1DJ
RNN Training	Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP
Idle Valley Rural Centre	North Road, Retford. DN22 8SG
Construction Centre Rotherham	Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham. S60 1RU
Skills Centre Shireoaks	Shireoaks Triangle Business Park, Worksop. S81 8AD
National Fluid Power Centre	Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP
Create Skills Ltd	Manvers, Rotherham. S63 5DB
Charnwood Training	Manvers, Rotherham. S63 5DB
Aston Recruitment & Training	Gold Street, Northampton. NN1 1RA
Rotherham Education Services	Doe Quarry Lane, Dinnington. S25 2NF
Retford Post 16 Centre	Old Hall Drive, Retford. DN22 7EA
Nottinghamshire Children & Family Partnership	Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP

Please see below the information you requested.

1. Do you offer special provisions for counselling services for students?

A series of counselling is offered after a counselling assessment with the learner. A counselling assessment will consider the suitability of any learner for the service given the appropriateness of offering a short-term service in respect to the presenting issues, relational connection, core model suitability, the likelihood of reaching short-term goals and whether other further specific referral would be more beneficial for the learner.

2. Do you offer any support or counselling specific to bereavement?

The Group does not offer a specific bereavement service. Most of the Group's counsellors are able to work specifically with bereavement but this depends on core approach and experience.

3. Do you have institution-wide services for students?

Yes, this response is applicable to services provided across the Group. Details of the Group's main centres of operations is listed in the FOI template response.

4. Do your policies or practices exclusively relate to support for students who have lost parents or does your support factor in other forms of bereavement, such as losing a sibling?

Staff will holistically assess the person's suitability for therapy at assessment. However, for example, in the academic year 2018-2019, we have worked with a number of learners who have experienced loss of siblings and loss of parent/s.

5. Can you tell me what special provision you have for offering extensions and academic breaks in study after a bereavement?

Extensions on submissions of learner work and academic breaks following bereavement is assessed within the relevant individual curriculum area and is negotiated with the learner. Whilst the counselling team offer full support for a learner's bereavement, the curriculum area decides on the appropriate extensions and/or academic breaks to provide to the learner.

6. How much money did you allocate to counselling and support services for bereavement per year between Jan 2016 - Jan 2019?

As the nature and content of the counselling sessions is private and confidential at the point of disclosure, we are unable to provide a breakdown of funds allocated for counselling specific to bereavement.

7. If you feel you would like to offer an opinion, would you say your institution feels you are offered enough from the Government in order to support students who have experienced bereavement while studying?

The Group has declined to offer any opinion on this matter.

Please note, whilst you have exercised your right to information under FOI, the RNN Group may not release some data it has on record. For example, if it contains personal details of individuals or if other exemptions apply, as detailed within the FOI legislation. See the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) website for further details as to what this means to you and the request you have made:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/what-is-the-foi-act/>

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the RNN Group's transparency agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be published on the Group's website at www.rnngroup.co.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Appendix A giving contact details, should you be unhappy with the service you have received from the RNN Group in regards to this FOI request.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours

The Data Protection and FOI Team

foi@rnngroup.co.uk

Appendix A

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

A copy of our complaints process can be found here:

https://www.rnngroup.co.uk/app/uploads/sites/9/2017/11/Q07-01-01_Compliments_Complaints_Guidance.pdf

A copy of the RNN Group's complaint form is located here:

https://www.rnngroup.co.uk/app/uploads/sites/9/2017/11/Q07-01-02_Compliments_Complaints_Form.pdf

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted the RNN Group's own complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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