

26 March 2018

Ms Christina Savage
request-467673-f3b8b258@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Governance Team
Corporate Services & Digital
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Our ref: ENQ08707-REQ001

Dear Ms Savage,

Freedom of Information Request – ENQ08707-REQ001

Thank you for your request for information dated 27 February 2018, in which you asked for information relating to;

Looked after children 2017

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') The Council is obliged to:

- Let you know whether we hold the information you have requested
- Provide you with the requested information, if held, (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I can confirm that Wiltshire Council holds the information you have requested. The information you requested is as follows;

1. How many children became 'looked after' in your local authority in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017?

169

2. Of the children in Q1, how many were in a group of siblings of two or more (I would like the number of children, not the number of groups)?

Sibling groups who became 'looked after' on the same day as their other siblings. Not counted in figures below are sibling groups who became 'looked after' in year but not on the same day.

55 children were part of a sibling group of two or more.

3. How many of the children that became 'looked after' in your local authority in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 were initially placed in Kinship Care/Connected Persons care?

36

Placement Types

Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility

Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering

Fostering placement with relative or friend who is also an approved adopter – FFA/concurrent planning

Fostering placement with relative or friend who is not long-term or FFA/concurrent planning

4. How many looked after children in your local authority are currently placed following care proceedings:

Data as at 01/03/2018

a) with long term LA foster carers

74 (excludes those placed in long term agency foster placements)

Placement Types

Foster Pmt with other Foster Carer - app adopt FFA

Foster Pmt with other Foster Carer - Long Term

b) in kinship care foster placements

46

Placement Types

Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility

Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering

Fostering placement with relative or friend who is also an approved adopter – FFA/concurrent planning

Fostering placement with relative or friend who is not long-term or FFA/concurrent planning

5.a. How many applications to be a kinship carer did you receive in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 in respect of children subject to Care Proceedings?

Applications are being interpreted as the number of viability assessments requested in year. This was 176.

5.b. How many of those (5.a.) applications were successful (positive viability assessment)?

Of those in 5a, 56 of these progressed further.

6. How many children in your local authority were made the subject of Special Guardianship Order following Care Proceedings in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017?

21

7. How many of your local authority's current foster carers are prepared and approved to be long term foster carers of sibling groups of:

a) 2

9

b) 3 or more

4

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If you are dissatisfied with the above response you have a right to request a review of your request for information. Details of the complaints and review procedure are appended to this letter.

Yours sincerely

Miss Sukhvir Kaur
Information Governance Officer

Direct line: 01225 770242
Email: FOI@wiltshire.gov.uk

Freedom of Information Complaints & Review Procedure

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Council, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act is entitled to complain and request an internal review of their request for information if they are dissatisfied with the response they have received.

Requests for review of Freedom of Information requests must be made in writing (includes email) to:

Freedom of Information Lead
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Email FOI@wiltshire.gov.uk

Please include the reference number, date of your request and details of why the review is being requested. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Freedom of Information Lead within 40 calendar days of the response to the original request.

Any request for review will be acknowledged in writing confirming the reasons for the review. The Freedom of Information Lead will allocate the review to someone who is independent of the original decision. The person conducting the review will set a target date for a response with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The reviewer will conduct a full review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account any matters raised by the requestor.

On completion of the review the reviewer will reply to the requestor with the result of the review. If the requestor is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to appeal the decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted using the following details:

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

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate)
01625 545 745 (national rate)

Email: casework@ico.org.uk