

Head of Complaints, Members
Enquiries & Information Governance

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m](#)

Our ref: FOI/ E29972

Ask for: Information Governance

Date: 15/01/2018

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Dear Ms Wynter,

Freedom of Information Act 2000
Request for Information: Information Provided
Subject: Private residential adult with learning disabilities

We write with regard to your recent enquiry for information held by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We trust that the information provided is satisfactory.

For future reference we publish information on our website, including the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and summary of Freedom of Information requests and responses that may be of help to you in searching for information. Our website is mentioned above.

It is important to note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 the Council asks not to receive unsolicited marketing communication.

Request and Response

1. Can you explain your commissioning process for private residential adult with learning disabilities care providers?

Answer: Arrangements for commissioned placements are made via a residential pre-placement agreement. If the provider has already been checked and used by Newham, new referrals are sent to providers via a pen picture profile of that individual. The pen picture is completed by a social worker following an assessment of need, and sent to the Brokerage Team who contact providers. If a new residential provider wants to work in Newham, the provider should contact the Planning Department who will liaise with Commissioners regarding the need for such a service. If agreed, contracts will then carry out checks regarding the company credentials including financial viability and experience, quality of the organisation, the new service, and the support proposed.

An assessment of need is undertaken by a social worker and suitable facilities are identified and organisations will discuss costings with the Local Authority's brokerage team. Customers, customers families and advocates are invited to view the facilities to ensure suitability. The identified organisation will then assess the customer to make sure that they are a good match for their organisation and the customers currently residing within the home.

A care and support plan is provided by the Council which helps the provider map out appropriate services for the customer.

2. Do you operate an approved provider's list of private residential care providers?

Answer: No

3. If so, how many providers are currently on this list?

Answer: N/A

4. Is the list closed, and if yes for how long?

Answer: N/A

5. Do you operate competitive tendering when introducing new organisations in the council's procurement?

Answer: We place via the Brokerage Team, as explained in question 1

6. How can a private residential care home provider approach the council when wishing to introduce their service?

Answer: You can approach the Council's commissioning team, details are provided in question 7

7. Who should be approached within the council to discuss referrals, rates, and commissioning?

Answer: Helen Murphy, Lead Commissioner (Learning Disabilities and Autism), Adult Social Care, 0208 430 2000, helen.murphy@newham.gov.uk

8. Once a service is established how is this service promoted in the council?

Answer: The service is added to the contact list held by Brokerage who will contact the service when they receive new referrals. The service can be included in the directory of information on the Newham website:

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/index.aspx>

Current services in place

9. How many Adults with learning difficulties care homes does the council operate?

Answer: None. All residential placements in care homes for adults with learning disabilities are commissioned from external private providers

10. How many Adults with learning difficulties are placed in care homes that you operate?

Answer: N/A - we do not operate care homes

11. How many Adults with learning difficulties are placed with private residential care providers?

Answer: As at 31 March 2017, there were 112 service users whose primary care need was learning disabilities in residential or nursing care.

12. What is the average weekly cost of placing an adult with learning disabilities in a care home you operate?

Answer: N/A

13. What is the average weekly cost of placing an adult with learning disabilities in a private care home including lowest and highest amount based on their needs?

Answer: The average cost of placing an adult aged between 18 and 64 in residential or nursing care in 2016/17 was £1,248 per week.

The highest cost in a private home was £3,004.51 per week. The lowest cost in a private home was £522.60 per week.

14. What is the average size of the care homes you place adults with learning disabilities in (i.e. how many adults can they accommodate)?

Answer: The average is 6-7 beds

15. What is the average distance adults with learning disabilities are placed from their home?

Answer: We do not readily hold this information. However, we have a policy to try to place people as near to family/community as possible, depending on the provider's ability to meet their needs, the cost and the customers choice

16. Do you make more referrals to short stay residential placements or long-term residential placements for adults with learning disabilities?

Answer: We do not readily hold this information

17. When an adult with learning disabilities is referred do we have a contract for a set period of time?

Answer: A contract is supplied to the home and if the home is a residential home then the contract would be for the period of time that the home remains suitable for both parties.

However if the customer is resident in a Supported Living placement then the customer would have a tenancy agreement and be bound by the terms within that agreement. The tenancy agreements vary from provider to provider. All Supported Living providers would be contracted to the Council.

In addition, the duration of a placement will depend on the annual review for that individual determining if the placement is still suitable.

18. How much do you charge private care homes per adult with learning disabilities for emergency referrals (maximum and minimum prices) and how much notice is the home given before an adult is placed?

Answer: N/A

19. Is there more of a need for more short-term placements or long-term placements for adults with learning disabilities?

Answer: There is a gap in the provision of suitable local short term services for adults with learning disabilities in the Transformation of Care (TCP) cohort.

20. What is the process for local authorities when making a referral to a private care home?

Answer: Please see our response for question 1.

21. Do local authorities negotiate or have set rate or prices based on an adult's with learning disabilities needs?

Answer: Prices are negotiated based on needs

22. Do rates vary depending on need/ behavioural problems?

Answer: Yes

23. Once established as a provider how will the organisation be promoted within the council?

Answer: Please see our response for question 8

24. What are the areas that local authorities feel need more service provision in?

Answer: Please see our response for question 19

25. What other services in the council refer adults with learning disabilities to homes?

Answer: None

26. How long do adults with learning disabilities stay in emergency short stay placements on average?

Answer: We do not readily hold this information. In order to retrieve this information, an officer would be required to manually interrogate each of our service user files individually, to be able to identify and manually compile the level of detail you have requested. This manual retrieval would exceed the appropriate limit.

Under the Freedom of Information Act the Council has a right to refuse a request for

information held if the cost of complying with a request exceeds the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for local authorities is £450 or 2.5 days or 18 hours. We believe in this case such an exemption applies and has decided to refuse your request for information under section 12(1) of the Act.

12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) 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.

If you require any further information or are not happy with our response please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team on (020) 8430 2000 or email us at information.governance@newham.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Complaints, Members Enquiries and Information Governance
Newham Council