



South Tyneside Council

Date: 14th August 2015
Our Ref: FOI 15 15576

Emily Tyrrell
request-283449-67b20059@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Tyrrell

Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on 31st July 2015.

Your Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request the following information in relation to your Short Breaks Services Statement:

- 1) Where can families find your Short breaks Statement? What evidence do you have that the statement is accessible to families (i.e. unique visitors/ postal reach etc.)?
- 2) How often do you review the Short breaks statement? When was the last time you revised it and for what reason?
- 3) How many children have been refused short breaks services because of eligibility criteria in the last twelve months? How many of these had an assessment?
- 4) How often do you consult families on the content of the short breaks statement? When did this last happen and how many families were involved?
- 5) What evidence do you have that you deliver short breaks to children and young people as outlined in your statement?
- 6) How many children do you have records of that you consider to be currently eligible for short breaks?

Council's Response

We can confirm the following information with regards your request above.

- 1) Where can families find your Short breaks Statement? What evidence do you have that the statement is accessible to families (i.e. unique visitors/ postal reach etc.)?

The local authority is in the process of updating the short breaks statement, the document is due for publication Autumn 2015. This will be accessible to families via the local offer and available upon request in alternative formats.

2) How often do you review the Short breaks statement? When was the last time you revised it and for what reason?

The local authority is currently in the process of revising the short breaks statement. This document was revised to incorporate changes to the short breaks offer

3) How many children have been refused short breaks services because of eligibility criteria in the last twelve months? How many of these had an assessment?

We have not declined any children due to eligibility

4) How often do you consult families on the content of the short breaks statement? When did this last happen and how many families were involved?

The last full consultation was 2013. The entire network was offered the opportunity to provide feedback. A total of thirty five families replied to the consultation.

5) What evidence do you have that you deliver short breaks to children and young people as outlined in your statement?

Children, young people and their families are consulted with regularly to gain feedback on the short breaks services the local authority provide. The local authority monitors contracts with providers and requests information around usage, quality as well as feedback from families. The authority also links with interest groups such as the parent carer forum.

6) How many children do you have records of that you consider to be currently eligible for short breaks?

There are 878 eligible children registered to the network

Copyright Procedure

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Internal Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of this enquiry you can invoke the Council's internal review procedures to ask for an independent review of your request. All such requests must be sent to us within 4 weeks and must clearly state in writing your reference number and your reasons for your request for internal review.

The Information Governance Team can be contacted at the following address:
Information Governance Team, Town Hall and Civic Buildings, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL.

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review process you can write to the Information Commissioner to ask for an independent review. The Information Commissioner is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please do note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the Council's internal review procedures. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the Council's reference number and your reasons for your appeal.

The ICO's contact details are as follows: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. More information can be found on the ICO's website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

If you have any further queries about this matter then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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