

**AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

[www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

**OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

This request was answered under the legislation indicated below:-

Statutory Deadline

**DP** ☐ Data Protection Act 1998 (£10 fee payable) +40 elapsed days after date of receipt\*  
**FOI** ☒ Freedom of Information Act 2000 (usually free) +20 working days after date of receipt\*  
**EIR** ☐ Environmental Information Regulations 2004 +20 working days after date of receipt\*  
☐ EIR exceptionally extended +40 working days after date of receipt\*

**Date Received on** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Reply Due by** 11 November 2009



**Request Reference**  
**879**

**Date Reply Sent**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009**

Question asked (as phrased by customer)

AVDC response

-----Original Message-----

From: Mrs L Taylor [[mailto:request-21190-26a8b4ff@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:mailto:request-21190-26a8b4ff@whatdotheyknow.com)]

Sent: 14 October 2009 22:38

To: Data\_Protection

Subject: Freedom of Information request - Welfare Checklist (PLO) 2008 introduced to ensure children are placed with relatives rather than in care

Dear Sir or Madam,

[http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/BB\\_family\\_breakdown.pdf](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/BB_family_breakdown.pdf)

December 2006 - Evidence shows children in care are being let down and suffer more than those placed with relatives.

We are interested to see how the introduction of the PLO (Public Law Outline) Welfare Checklist 2008 has altered the outcomes for children.

I would be grateful if under the FOIA you could advise how many times your Local Authority has applied for care orders via the Family Courts WITHOUT the Welfare checklist set out in section 1 of the Children Act 1989 being completed. The completion of the Welfare Checklist would confirm that extended family members had in fact been contacted prior to any application for a care order.

Dear Mrs Taylor

Thank you for your information request. I can confirm that to date, Aylesbury Vale District Council have not applied for any care orders via the Family Courts. The answers to the retrospective questions are therefore not applicable.

If you have any further requests please email [records@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:records@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) or write to the address below.

Regards  
Karen McMahon  
On behalf of the Head of IT

IT Division  
Aylesbury Vale District Council  
4 Great Western Street  
Aylesbury  
Bucks, HP20 2TW

Whoever signs the application for a care order is responsible for ensuring that the Welfare checklist has been fully completed, please state who within your authority holds this position.

'The Government recognises the importance of family members taking care of children who cannot be cared for by their parents. We know that a child brought up by a family member benefits from living with someone they already know and trust rather than a stranger.

The Children Act 1989 placed a duty on local authorities to support the upbringing of children by their families wherever possible, and that services should be provided to children in need and their families to enable this to happen.

There is now an increased focus on the steps that must be taken prior to any court proceedings. Unless it is necessary to take emergency action to protect a child from immediate harm, the local authority must undertake various steps before initiating care proceedings. Welfare checklist set out in section 1 of the Children Act 1989'

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Taylor

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Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

<http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/about#officers>

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:  
request-21190-26a8b4ff@whatdotheyknow.com

Is records@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Aylesbury Vale District Council? If so please contact us using this form:  
<http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/contact>

If you find WhatDoTheyKnow useful as an FOI

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officer, please ask  
your web manager to suggest us on your  
organisation's FOI page.

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## INFORMATIVES

1. The legislation gives a right of access to information contained within records which is not necessarily the same as access to records themselves. Sometimes this can be most efficiently achieved by providing copies of the original documents. On other occasions the raw documents could be difficult to interpret - due to the use of jargon, or because the information sought is only a small part of a much larger document covering also other matters beyond the scope of the request, or we may have reason to withhold some or all of the information under a statutory FOI exemption or EIR exception. This form offers a means of summarising and/or providing interpretation in these circumstances so as to reduce costs and improve clarity.

2. If you are dissatisfied with our response or wish to seek further explanation or make a comment please contact us again – see our publication scheme on website [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) or our Corporate Complaints leaflet “If we’ve got it right or wrong” for details of the procedure.

3. Please note that you do have a right to make a complaint direct to the Information Commissioner and details on how to do this are set out on the Information Commissioner’s website [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) under the heading “How to make a complaint”