



South Tyneside Council

Charles Bell
request-158882-514b9e47@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 2nd July 2013
Our Ref: FOI 13 12470

Dear Mr Bell

Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on 23rd April 2013.

I apologise for the delay in providing this information.

Your request asked for the following information:

Your Request

1. In terms of staffing what is the composition of your Youth Offending Team in terms of designated posts, numbers etc? In particular I seek to establish how many HCPC registered social workers are within your team and the qualifications required of those from Probation, Health and the Police in addition to numbers and qualifications required of other members of your team. Please advise as best you can. Please provide person specifications including that applicable to the Youth Offending Team Manager.
2. If you consider it appropriate please advise of the professional qualification of your current Youth Offending Team Manager.
3. Which Officers/posts within your team are designated to:
 - a. Attend the police station as an appropriate adult;
 - b. Hold case responsibility for children remanded to local authority accommodation with an indication if they have experience of managing looked after children;
 - c. Write pre-sentence reports;
 - d. Act as responsible officers for community sentences.
4. Please provide your guidance and policy that addresses dovetailing children in conflict with the law and Local Authority duties under the Children Act 1989 concerning children in need; children suffering or at risk of significant harm including threshold criteria; looked after children with particular reference to offences committed in residential care and children who are looked after but are sentenced to custody; looked after children subject to a pathway plan; children and young people who have ceased to be looked after together with arrangements for managing the transition to adult services.

Council's Response

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

1. In terms of staffing what is the composition of your Youth Offending Team in terms of designated posts, numbers etc? In particular I seek to establish how many HCPC registered social workers are within your team and the qualifications required of those from Probation, Health and the Police in addition to numbers and qualifications required of other members of your team. Please advise as best you can.

a) Please see the table below outlining the staffing

Position	Number of posts
Strategic Manager	1
Operational Manager	1
Snr Practitioner	4
YJS Officers	8.5
FTE Police Officers	1.29
Probation Officer	1
Substance Use Worker	1
CP Nurse	1
ETE Lead	1
Healthy Schools Lead	1
Groupwork Officer	1
Reparation Supervisor	1
Critical Support (ISS) Officers	4
Casual workers	18
Volunteers (Panel members)	45

b) There are 5 staff who are HCPC registered

c) All staff are fully qualified in safeguarding and youth justice. Specialist staff are fully qualified in their own discipline

d) All posts are appointed with person specifications that ensure the requirements of the Youth Justice Board are met.

2. If you consider it appropriate please advise of the professional qualification of your current Youth Offending Team Manager.

The Service Manager is appropriately qualified for the range and remit of the post

3. Which Officers/posts within your team are designated to:

a. Attend the police station as an appropriate adult;

All Managers; YJS Officers; Critical Support; Groupwork Officer; Reparation Supervisor

b. Hold case responsibility for children remanded to local authority accommodation with an indication if they have experience of managing looked after children;

All YJS Officers

c. Write pre-sentence reports;

All YJS Officers

d. Act as responsible officers for community sentences.

All YJS Officers

4. Please provide your guidance and policy that addresses dovetailing children in conflict with the law and Local Authority duties under the Children Act 1989 concerning children in need; children suffering or at risk of significant harm including threshold criteria; looked after children with particular reference to offences committed in residential care and children who are looked after but are sentenced to custody; looked after children subject to a pathway plan; children and young people who have ceased to be looked after together with arrangements for managing the transition to adult services.

All children and young people in the criminal justice system who are identified as Child in Need or are Looked After or are Leaving care are supported via multi agency planning so as to meet the requirements of any criminal justice act and, at the same time, ensure support as outlined in the Children's Act 1989.

All children looked after are supported in being involved in positive activities and the Care Team will include a member of staff from Services for Young People (includes Youth Offending Service) when there is either an identified risk of offending or is involved in offending behaviour.

Within the children's homes, there is an identified worker from the YOS who attends team meetings to support and assist young people and staff in positive activities as a preventative measure – or as part of an order. Restorative processes are in place within the children's homes whenever appropriate to address conflict, build understanding and strengthen relationships with young people

Please see the attached documents relating to young people subject to remand or a custodial sentence and Transitions protocols

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

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, please do not hesitate to contact us on (0191) 424 6539, or by emailing foi@southtyneside.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Robinson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Paul Robinson
Corporate Lead, Corporate Affairs