FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 810/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request & Response:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding Fostering placements for Looked After Children. Please provide answers on the attached and accompanying spreadsheet.

1. Who, within the local authority, has commissioning responsibility for Fostering placements for Looked After Children? Please provide the following:
   a. Name
   b. Job title
   c. Telephone no.
   d. Email address

Answer:
   a. Name: Shirley Bowron
   b. Job title: Team Manager Fostering, Adoption and Care Leaver Service
   c. Telephone no: 01572 758411
   d. Email address: sbowron@rutland.gov.uk

2. Please provide a list of the Fostering frameworks that the local authority uses to make placements (e.g. ‘X’ Council framework, London Care Placements framework, East Midlands Regional framework etc.), and any ‘Tiers’ (or similar) associated with that framework.

Answer:
   We use the East Midlands Regional Framework. – There are no tiers associated with the Framework.

3. Please provide a list of preferred Independent Fostering Agencies, whether the agency sits on or off framework, and the gross total expenditure with that agency in 2017/18
   Note: By ‘preferred’ we mean those agencies that would be considered and chosen for placements on a preferential basis by the council.

Answer:
   We have been advised by East Midlands Regional Framework that this is exempt under s(2) 43 Commercial Interests – and therefore we are unable to provide this
4. Please provide the following fee related information:

a. The current 2018/19 fee for foster parents (i.e. the pay foster parent would receive)

Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fostering Level</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Weekly Fee</th>
<th>Weekly Fee 2nd child</th>
<th>Weekly Fee 3rd child</th>
<th>Weekly Fee 4th Child and subsequent children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Family and friends who are looking after a child and have had a viability assessment but are not approved connected foster carers</td>
<td>£0 (but child allowance is payable)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>All newly approved carers when a child is in placement</td>
<td>£124.74</td>
<td>£93.56 75% of wkly fee</td>
<td>£83.58 67% of wkly fee</td>
<td>£62.37 50% of wkly fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>All carers with one year experience, a minimum of 20 overnight stays and completion of the TSD standards</td>
<td>£172.80</td>
<td>£129.60 75% of wkly fee</td>
<td>£115.78 67% of wkly fee</td>
<td>£86.40 50% of wkly fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>All carers with at least two year experience and on completion of the TDS (experienced level) and a minimum of 20 overnight stays (in the preceding year)</td>
<td>£218.81</td>
<td>£164.11 75% of wkly fee</td>
<td>£146.60 67% of wkly fee</td>
<td>£109.41 50% of wkly fee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. The current 2018/19 amount given for basic fostering allowances.

Answer:

The allowance rates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Weekly Basic Allowance</th>
<th>Festivity Allowance</th>
<th>Birthday Allowance</th>
<th>Holiday Allowance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 years</td>
<td>£145</td>
<td>£145</td>
<td>£145</td>
<td>£290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 years</td>
<td>£165</td>
<td>£165</td>
<td>£165</td>
<td>£330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15 years</td>
<td>£206</td>
<td>£206</td>
<td>£206</td>
<td>£412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16+ years</td>
<td>£249</td>
<td>£249</td>
<td>£249</td>
<td>£498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Please provide the following information related to Fostering placements for Looked After Children. Please provide actual figures for years 2013/14 to 2017/18, as well as predicted figures for 2018/19.

a. The number of Looked After Children cared for by a foster carer provided by the Council

Answer:
17

b. The number of Looked After Children cared for by a foster carer arranged through an Independent Fostering Agency.

Answer:
7 Children

6. What is the gross total expenditure on fostering services for Looked After Children? Please provide actual figures for financial years 2013/14 to 2017/18, as well as budgeted expenditure for 2018/19.

Answer:
2013/14 - £435,687
2014/15 - £753,615
2015/16 - £1,416,787
2017/18 - £1,290,089
2018/19 Predicated -- £1,301,500

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Data Protection Officer, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Business Support Team
Rutland County Council