FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1520/18

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, I would like to request the following information regarding Looked After Children (also referred to as LAC, children in care, or children looked after by a local authority)

1. Please could you supply the name, job title, email address and telephone number of the commissioner with responsibility for Looked After Children and/or placements in children’s care homes.

Answer:
Name: Shirley Bowron
Title: Team Manager – Fostering, Adoption and Care Leavers Services
Email: sbowron@rutland.gov.uk
Telephone: 01572 758411

For questions 2 through 9, please supply the following information for the financial years 2014/15 to 2017/18, and where possible, the budget or most up to date snapshot available for 2018/19.

2. Please provide the total number of children looked after by the local authority.

Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/2018</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Please provide the local authority’s total expenditure on placements for looked after children (q.2).
4. Of the total number of children looked after by the local authority (q.2) please provide the number of placements in children’s homes (not including secure units or hostels).

Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/2018</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email message acts as a Refusal Notice.

We can confirm that we hold the information however we are unable to supply it as we consider this information to be exempt due to the low number of individuals identified.

The Council is relying on Section 40(2) – personal information in that it believes the exemption applies because the information is personal information and we believe that disclosure would not be fair or lawful because it would breach the first data protection principle as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. We consider that these individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

5. Please provide the local authority’s expenditure on looked after children’s placements in children’s homes (q.4).

Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>£65,526.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>£63,674.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>£65,526.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/2018</td>
<td>£270,864.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Of the number of children looked after by the local authority in children’s homes (q.4) please provide the number placed inside the local authority boundary (in area) and the number placed outside the local authority boundary (out of area).

Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email message acts as a Refusal Notice.

We can confirm that we hold the information however we are unable to supply it as we consider this information to be exempt due to the low number of individuals identified.

The Council is relying on Section 40(2) – personal information in that it believes the exemption applies because the information is personal information and we believe that disclosure would not be fair or lawful because it would breach the first data protection principle as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. We consider that these individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

7. Please provide the local authority’s expenditure on placements for children looked after by the local authority in children’s homes inside the local authority boundary and in children’s homes outside the local authority boundary (q.6).

Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In County</th>
<th>Out of County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£65,526.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£63,674.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£65,526.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£270,864.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Please provide the number of children looked after by the local authority in:

· In placements inside the local authority boundary, in ‘own provision’ children’s homes (children’s homes operated by the local authority)

Answer:
None

· In placements outside the local authority boundary, in ‘own provision’ children’s homes (children’s homes operated by the local authority)

Answer:
None

· In placements inside the local authority boundary, in ‘private provision’ children’s homes (children’s homes operated by the independent sector)

Answer:
None

· In placements outside the local authority boundary, in ‘private provision’ children’s homes (children’s homes operated by the independent sector)
In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email message acts as a Refusal Notice.

We can confirm that we hold the information however we are unable to supply it as we consider this information to be exempt due to the low number of individuals identified.

The Council is relying on Section 40(2) – personal information in that it believes the exemption applies because the information is personal information and we believe that disclosure would not be fair or lawful because it would breach the first data protection principle as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. We consider that these individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

9. Please provide the local authority’s expenditure on placements for looked after children in:

· In placements inside the local authority boundary, in ‘own provision’ children’s homes (children’s homes operated by the local authority)

Answer:
None

· In placements outside the local authority boundary, in ‘own provision’ children’s homes (children’s homes operated by the local authority)

Answer:
None

· In placements inside the local authority boundary, in ‘private provision’ children’s homes (children’s homes operated by the independent sector)

Answer:
None

· In placements outside the local authority boundary, in ‘private provision’ children’s homes (children’s homes operated by the independent sector)

Answer:
£226,821.95 per annum

10. Please provide the highest, average, and lowest weekly fee currently paid for LAC in a children’s home.

Answer:
£4,350.00 weekly.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, 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