



My Ref: FOI4776
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Policies on accommodation for Looked After Children

1. Please provide documents, such as policy and protocol documents, and/or guidance notes, relating to policies that govern the assessment of suitability and allocation of accommodation for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children by your council.

The Local Authority consider each unaccompanied asylum seeking child or young person as an individual, based on their individual needs, this is then considered as part of the search for an appropriately matched placement and individual discussions with any provider identified as possibly being suitable. The process of identifying a placement for our unaccompanied young people cohort is the same as is for all of our looked after children.

2. Please provide documents, such as policy and protocol documents, and/or guidance notes, relating to policies that govern the use of unregulated accommodation for looked after children.

The Local Authority do not advocate for unregulated placements for looked after children and all planning is pursued to avoid this eventuality.

3. Please provide documents, such as policy and protocol documents, and/or guidance notes, relating to policies that govern the use of supported accommodation for looked after children.

The Local Authority work closely with supported 16+ accommodation providers who have their own policies and procedures about how they operate as a provider and this is required as part of their Ofsted registration. The Local Authority's preferred placement providers are all Ofsted registered and or in the process of their registration and awaiting their initial inspection. When considering a placement with any such provider close matching discussions are held to ensure the needs of the young people will be supported and at the centre of the planning.

4. If the policies for assessing and determining accommodation outcomes for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and other looked after children differ, please confirm this.

As confirmed above the process is the same.

5. Please provide documents, such as policy and protocol documents, and/or guidance notes, relating to policies that govern the assessment of suitability and allocation of accommodation for child victims of trafficking who are looked after by your council. Safeguarding in supported accommodation

The Local Authority process of matching children and young people is the same for all looked after children and does not differ for child victims of trafficking. Close work is undertaken as part of any matching and prior to any placements being agreed.

6. What training, if any, is provided to staff working in supported accommodation regarding the specific needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children?

The Local Authority accesses training via Yorkshire Migration to support practitioners working with unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

7. What training, if any, is provided to staff working in supported accommodation regarding the specific needs of child victims of trafficking?

The Local Authority has a training programme available for staff to access for training throughout the year.

8. What process or procedures are in place to address complaints or concerns raised by children in supported accommodation?

The Local Authority have a clear complaints procedure in place, which children and young people access if they so wish, any complaints specifically about a placement provider can be raised by the young people directly with the provider and the Local Authority would also do this if there were anything to raise.

9. Over the last 12 months (or nearest equivalent period for which data is available), how many safeguarding concerns or incidents have been reported in relation to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in supported accommodation?

The Local Authority would not hold the data for specifically for this specific cohort, any safeguarding worry would be considered as to whether threshold for a strategy discussion was required but this data would include the whole cohort of children and young people whom Barnsley social care are working with.

10. As of October 2024 (or nearest available data), how many of the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children looked after by your council were child

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victims of trafficking (as defined at footnote 5)? 5 By child victim of trafficking, we mean any child who has been referred into the National Referral Mechanism ("NRM"), have a positive reasonable grounds decision or positive conclusive grounds decision.

None.

Placement stability

11.As at October 2024 (or nearest available data), please confirm the average length of time spent in a placement by a child looked after by your council.

For CLA as at 31st October 2024 the average time spent in placement was 339.5 days.

12.As at October 2024 (or nearest available data), please confirm the average length of time spent in a placement by an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child looked after by your council.

For UASC CLA as at 31st October 2024 the average time spent in placement was 252.6 days.

13.As at October 2024 (or nearest available data), please confirm the average length of time spent in a supported accommodation placement by a child looked after by your council.

For CLA as at 31st October 2024 the average time spent in a K3 Registered Supported Accommodation placement was 60.6 days.

14.As at October 2024 (or nearest available data), please confirm the average length of time spent in a supported accommodation placement by an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child looked after by your council.

For UASC CLA as at 31st October 2024 the average time spent in a K3 Registered Supported Accommodation placement was 39.5 days.

Missing episodes

1. Over the last 12 months (or nearest equivalent period for which data is available), how many missing episodes were recorded by your council in relation to looked after children?

From 31/07/2024 to 31/07/2025 there were 450 CLA missing episodes.

2. Over the last 12 months (or nearest equivalent period for which data is available), how many missing episodes were recorded by your council in relation to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children?

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From 31/07/2024 to 31/07/2025 there were X UASC CLA missing episodes.

X – Figure suppressed to protect confidentiality of data.

3. Over the last 12 months (or nearest equivalent period for which data is available), how many missing episodes from supported accommodation were recorded by your council in relation to looked after children?

From 31/07/2024 to 31/07/2025 there were 62 CLA missing episodes from K3 Registered Supported Accommodation placements.

4. Over the last 12 months (or nearest equivalent period for which data is available), how many missing episodes from supported accommodation were recorded by your council in relation to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

From 31/07/2024 to 31/07/2025 there were X UASC CLA missing episodes from K3 Registered Supported Accommodation placements.

X – Figure suppressed to protect confidentiality of data

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

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Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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