



My Ref: FOI/ 4615
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: -

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request detailed information regarding your local authority's commissioning and delivery of supported accommodation and support services for children in care and care leavers, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).

Please respond to the following questions in full. Where possible, provide data in Excel or CSV format.

1. Providers and Service Models

1.1. List all providers currently delivering supported accommodation and/or support services for:

- **Children in care aged 16–17**
- **Care leavers aged 18+**
- **UASC (if applicable)**

This information is exempt under Section 38(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as release would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health of individuals. In this case, releasing a list of providers would allow for the locations of vulnerable young people to be identified and would put them at direct risk of harm. Whilst we would not be giving the locations themselves in response to this request, we believe that by giving a list of providers it would be possible to identify properties these providers own and in turn, identify locations they house young people.

1.2. For each provider, specify:

- **Type of provision (e.g. 24/7 staffed, floating support, outreach, safety pods)**
- **Ofsted registration status (registered, pending, exempt)**
- **Number of units or placements available**
- **Number of young people currently placed**

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list of providers it would be possible to identify properties these providers own and in turn, identify locations they house young people.

2. Costs and Funding

2.1. Provide the average weekly cost per young person for each type of supported accommodation and support service, broken down as follows:

- **Accommodation cost**
- **Support cost**
- **Additional costs (e.g. contingency placements, interpreters, transport)**

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2.2. Confirm whether young people are expected to contribute to accommodation costs (e.g. via Universal Credit housing element). If so:

- **How is this managed and monitored?**
- **What is the average amount recovered per young person per week?**

Young people are not expected to contribute to accommodation costs, however the 16+ semi independent placements usually have a small service charge which YP are asked to manage as part of their preparation for independence, the cost of this varies from placement to placement and it is managed by the provider with the support of the professional network around the young people. It isn't a requirement that young people access universal credit prior to turning 18, however one of the housing providers contracted to the LA does accept housing benefit via universal credit and this is the route for supporting this placement financially, but is the only one of this type.

3. Numbers of Young People

3.1. As of the most recent reporting period, how many young people are placed in:

- **Supported accommodation (16–17-year-olds) - 21**
- **Transitional accommodation (18+ care leavers) – 4**
- **Emergency or contingency placements (e.g. safety pods) - 0**

3.2. Provide a breakdown by:

Provider – As Q1

- **Placement type –**
IFA – 75

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Resi - 48

16+ - 26

- **Age group – 0-18**
- **UASC vs non-UASC**

6 UASC in fostering

7 UASC in 16+ accommodation

4. Contractual Arrangements

4.1. Specify the commissioning route used for each provider:

- **Block contract – 0**
- **Spot purchase**

Fostering – 14

Residential – 33

16+ accommodation - 26

- **Open or closed framework**
- **Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)**
- **Other (please specify) – BMBC is part of the White Rose framework that is Open**

4.2. For each contract or framework, provide:

- **Provider name**
- **Contract start and end date**
- **Extension options**
- **Total contract value or annual spend**
- **Whether the contract is exclusive or non-exclusive**

Please contact White Rose for the above information

whiteroseregionalcommissioning@leeds.gov.uk

4.3. Provide a copy of the service specification and/or contract summary for each current contract or framework.

Barnsley are currently in the process of creating a Barnsley contract but this work is yet to be completed.

5. Procurement and Renewal

5.1. Confirm:

- **When your current contracts or frameworks are due for renewal or re-tender – Please contact White Rose**
- **Whether you plan to re-procure these services in the next 12–24 months**
- **How providers can express interest in future opportunities (e.g. market engagement events, PIN notices)**

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

If you wish to work with Barnsley council – please contact Laura Bestall – lead commissioner for Children in care - aurabestall@barnsley.gov.uk

6. Quality Assurance and Young People's Feedback

6.1. Describe how you monitor the quality of supported accommodation and support services, including:

- **KPIs used**
- **Frequency of audits or inspections**
- **Use of external regulators (e.g. Ofsted) -**

All of the above, and before placing a young person, we request a reference from other local authorities that have placed young people in the home.

We are currently reviewing our quality assurance framework.

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
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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