



My Ref: FOI 6417
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: -

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to your authority's looked-after children who have a recorded disability, hold an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or have neurodevelopmental or attachment-related diagnoses.

This request concerns recorded information relating to policy, performance, commissioning, procurement and service delivery within children's social care. It does not seek personal data.

This information is sought in the public interest to support transparent national benchmarking of the SEND profile of looked-after children across English local authorities and to identify areas of unmet need for specialist provision.

Where data is held against a financial year, please provide figures for the most recent three complete financial years (2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25) and the current year to date. Where monthly snapshots are held, please provide the most recent 12-month period. Where the requested information is already published (for example via the Department for Education's Children Looked After statistics), a reference or link to the published source is sufficient.

Where a specific figure would identify fewer than five individuals, please suppress under the standard <5 convention and note that suppression has been applied, so that the aggregate cohort picture remains reportable.

1. Cohort Numbers

1.1 As at the most recent available snapshot date, please confirm the total number of children currently looked after by the authority, and the snapshot date used.

428 Children looked after as of 27/07/2026

1.2 As at the same snapshot date, please provide the number of looked-after children (aged 0-17) in each of the following categories. Where a child sits in more than one category, please count them in each — I am seeking the size of each cohort, not a mutually exclusive breakdown.

- With a recorded disability (as reported on the SSDA903 statistical return)
57
- With an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in force
83
- With a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)
30
- With a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
<5
- With a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) primary need on their EHCP or equivalent assessment
<5
- With a Learning Disability (mild, moderate, severe or profound) in spready
12
- With a physical disability
<5
- With a sensory impairment (visual or hearing)
<5
- With Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
<5
- With a Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) profile, where recorded
N/A
- With a recorded diagnosis of Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) or Disinhibited Social Engagement Disorder (DSED), where recorded
N/A
- Where developmental trauma is recorded as a presenting need in the child's care assessment or formulation
N/A

1.3 Please provide the equivalent figures for each of the following years, where held:

- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25
- 2025/26 (year to date)

	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
Total Children Looked After	585	586	628	556
Recorded disability	102	114	123	108
EHCP	87	73	79	66
ASC	31	38	37	28
ADHD	5	<5	<5	<5

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SEMH	55	39	36	30
Learning Difficulty	11	27	33	33
Physical Disability	6	10	13	15
Sensory impairment	<5	6	5	<5
FASD	<5	<5	<5	<5

1.4 Overlapping diagnoses — of the looked-after children identified in Question 1.2, please confirm, where routinely recorded:

- (a) The number of children with an EHCP who also have a recorded diagnosis of ASC

13

- (b) The number of children with an EHCP who also have a recorded diagnosis of ADHD

<5

- (c) The number of children who have both ASC and ADHD recorded

<5

1.5 Educational placement of the EHCP cohort — of the looked-after children with an EHCP in force at the snapshot date used in Q1.1, please provide the number attending each of the following, where routinely recorded:

- Mainstream school
- Specialist maintained school
- Independent special school (non-maintained or independent)
- Alternative Provision (AP)
- Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) or education otherwise arranged
- No education currently in place (where recorded)

For the academic year 2025-2026

Special school- 43

Mainstream-42

Other- 14

No named provision (receiving alternative based education offer)- 8

Alternative Provision- <5

Secure- <5

For the academic year 2024-2025

Special school- 40

Mainstream-38

Other- 11

No named provision (receiving alternative based education offer)- 7

Alternative Provision- <5

Secure- <5

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2. Placement Type by SEND Profile

For looked-after children with an EHCP in force at the snapshot date used in Q1.1, please provide the number placed in each of the following settings:

2.1 Ofsted-registered children's homes (under 18s)

32

2.2 Residential schools / 52-week placements

0

2.3 Specialist SEND fostering placements (in-house or IFA)

0

2.4 Mainstream fostering (in-house or IFA)

36

2.5 Ofsted-registered supported accommodation (16-17)

<5

2.6 Unregistered provision

<5

2.7 Placed out of area (20+ miles from home address, or outside the LA boundary — please state which definition your authority uses)

41 (Placed outside the LA boundary)

2.8 In joint-funded placements (LA + ICB / NHS Continuing Care)

12

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: -

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

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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