



Our ref: 73577625

Date: 12 May 2025

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

[REDACTED]

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham Children's Trust. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

Can you please confirm:

a. that your council currently operates these mechanisms and has a strategy to cover CSE

Yes, on behalf of Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children's Trust monitors the prevalence of CSE on a monthly-basis, and trends are deciphered which inform practices / approaches across the multi-agency partnership accordingly. CSE cases are monitored by Team Managers and Exploitation Coordinators on a daily level.

A CSE strategy which covers (2023-26) has been Published and is available to view on the Birmingham Safeguarding Partnership. The CSE strategy is currently being updated in line with National developments of CSE announced in January 2025.

b. the nature of these mechanisms used to monitor CSE and the strategy in place

Mechanisms to monitor CSE include a multi-agency and holistic approach which ensures each child with CSE concerns receives a thorough risk assessment which informs relevant interventions including the disruption/prosecution of perpetrators and specific work to help children recover from the effects of vulnerabilities / grooming / exploitation / abuse. Children are discharged from the CSE register only when there has been a significant and evidence reduction in risk. If new CSE concerns emerge for the child a new risk assessment and intervention plan is formulated.

Data on CSE is also monitored by a designated Data and Performance Manager so we can robustly manage performance.

A CSE strategy which covers (2023-26) has been Published and is available to view on the Birmingham Safeguarding Partnership website.

Under Section 21(1) (Information accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible by other means and even if there is a charge or fee to obtain this information. The information you have requested is publicly available via the following link:

<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Combined-Strategy-and-Delivery-Plan-Tackling-Exploitation-of-Children-and-Young-People-2023-2026.pdf>

The CSE strategy is currently being updated in line with National developments of CSE announced in January 2025.

c. the current number of cases of CSE being monitored by your council

At month end of March 2025, there were 148.

d. the number of CSE cases monitored that are thought to be gang/group based (cases involving 2 or more perpetrators)

Less than 5% of our cases can be considered gang/group affiliated though we are aware of under reporting/ under detection.

e. a breakdown of ethnicity and - if possible - age of the assumed victims of CSE being monitored by your council

Based on last full month of March.

- White 63
- Black, Black British, Caribbean or African 16
- Asian or Asian British 27
- Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups 35
- Other Ethnic Group ≤5
- Unknown Ethnicity ≤5

Some information has been withheld. This information is exempt under [Section 40\(2\)](#) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). Where the number is 5 or less, the Trust has replaced the figure with 'equal to or less than 5' ("≤5"). The numbers have been withheld to prevent individuals being identified; this is in line with the [Information Commissioners guidance of anonymization](#), which mitigates the risk of individuals being identified. The Trust considers that individuals could potentially be identified from the very low numbers and that such identification would constitute a breach of one of the principles set out under the Data Protection Act 2018. This is on the basis that it could be combined with other reasonably available information to identify individuals. As this is personal data, disclosure under Freedom of Information is conditional upon satisfying the First Data Protection Principle, that processing be fair, lawful and transparent. We recognise that there is a public interest in transparency and accountability in public decision making. We have balanced this against the privacy rights of the individual data subjects.

f. a breakdown of ethnicity of perpetrators for cases being monitored by your council

This information is not held by the Trust, the Police may hold this information.

g. the number of cases being monitored each year between 2010 and 2024 (please use the most appropriate reporting date for this data and, if this is not available, please provide this information as of the 1st March of that year). If data is not available for a particular year then please specify the reason for this.

Please note the data may encompass the same child twice or more should there have been separate periods in which CSE concerns were being monitored

- 2014 – 82*
- 2015 - 305
- 2016 - 429
- 2017 - 475
- 2018 - 420
- 2019 - 361
- 2020 - 428
- 2021 - 346
- 2022 - 285
- 2023 - 277
- 2020 - 428
- 2021 - 346

- 2022 - 285
- 2023 - 277
- 2024 - 248

*Please note that partial data has been provided as this information started being recorded in a readily accessible format in 2014. The formal classification for recording CSE risk within Carefirst was implemented in April 2014. Prior to this, there was no formal recording process for the CSE risk identified. This does not mean we didn't record it at all, just that it would require a manual review of other areas of social care recording to collate the information.

From undertaking a sampling exercise in respect to similar FoI requests in the past, we estimate that it takes approximately 10 minutes to locate the file and locate specific information contained in the file, dependent on the size and complexity of the file.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) requires us to comply with a request, unless it would be too expensive to do so. Under s.12 (Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit) of the Act, the cost limit for the Trust is £450 i.e. 18 hours at the rate of £25 per person per hour.

The cost limit allows us to consider when estimating the cost of complying with a request, time spent determining whether we hold the information requested; identifying, locating and retrieving it and extracting the information from the relevant documents.

In order for us to answer this question for 2013 there are 7198 case records to review and we estimate that each one would take 10 minutes to review which would take 1200 hours. We are therefore unable to process your request as to do so would exceed the cost limit as set out in s.12 of the Act.

In cases where the time involved in dealing with requests for information would exceed 18 hours, the Trust normally offers individuals the option to pay for the additional work over and above 18 hours, at a subsidised rate of £25 per hour. However, where the resources involved in dealing with a request would have detrimental impact on the Trust's ability to provide its core services, the Trust is entitled not provide this option, and accordingly, refuse the request outright.

In this case due to the amount of work and resources required to comply with this element of your request, the Trust is of the view that the resources involved in responding to your request, even if you were to pay the subsidised statutory rate of £25.00 per hour, would interfere significantly with the Trust's ability to provide

its core services, as such, the Trust considers that it is appropriate to refuse this part of the request on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.

Please quote the reference number **73577625** in any future communications .

If you are dissatisfied with our response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response. Please outline which part of the response you are not happy with setting out your reasons. This request should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team
PO Box 16366
Birmingham
B2 2YY

Email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

If you are still dissatisfied with the Birmingham Children's Trust's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

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Disclosure Officer

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