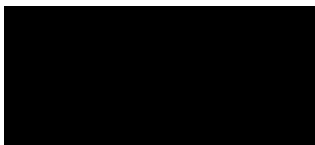




BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST

Our ref: 67566413
02 October 2024



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.

Request

Dear Birmingham City Council

Care Leavers in Supported Living:

How many care leavers or eligible young people (16 to 17 years old) are living within supported or semi-supported accommodation from 2020 to 2023?

From 2020 to 2023, how many care leavers or eligible young people (18 to 24 years old) lived in supported or semi-supported accommodation?

Costs and Funding:

What is the weekly cost, inclusive of support hours and accommodation, for placing a 16 to 17-year-old within semi-supported accommodation? Please provide minimum, average, and maximum costs weekly.

What is the weekly cost, inclusive of support hours and accommodation, for placing an adult (18 to 24 years old) within semi-supported accommodation? Please provide minimum, average, and maximum costs weekly.

What is the average weekly amount of support hours required by 16 to 17-year-olds?

What is the average weekly cost of support hours for care leavers?

Providers and Quality:

Birmingham Children's Trust
PO Box 17342
Birmingham
B2 2DW

Email: TrustInformation@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Tel: 0121 303 5161 (select Option 2)
Web: www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

How many supported living providers are currently contracted to provide services for care leavers?

Can you provide a list of the current supported living providers?

What quality assurance measures are in place to monitor and evaluate supported living providers?

How often are these providers inspected and assessed?

Tendering and Contracts:

What tender frameworks are used for commissioning supported living services for care leavers?

When is the next tender for supported living services expected to open?

How can interested parties access and participate in the tendering process?

Commissioning Process:

Whom should I approach within your Birmingham Children's Trust to discuss commissioning/service provision/rates and referrals?

Can you explain your commissioning process for private supported accommodation providers?

Do you spot purchase, have framework contracts/agreements, or block contracts?

Thank you for your assistance with this request. I look forward to your response.

Response

Care Leavers in Supported Living:

How many care leavers or eligible young people (16 to 17 years old) are living within supported or semi-supported accommodation from 2020 to 2023?

Please see below the figures for eligible Children in Care, we don't record placement information for care leavers in our case management system.

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Year	Total number of supported accommodation placements for 16/17 year olds
2020-21	186
2021-22	304
2022-23	377
2023-24	324

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, there are 324 records to review and we estimate that each one would take 10 minutes to review which would take 54 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 the request outright on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.

From 2020 to 2023, how many care leavers or eligible young people (18 to 24 years old) lived in supported or semi-supported accommodation?

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This information is not held by the Trust in a readily accessible format. As above, the Trust considers that it is appropriate to refuse the request outright on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.

Costs and Funding:

What is the weekly cost, inclusive of support hours and accommodation, for placing a 16 to 17-year-old within semi-supported accommodation? Please provide minimum, average, and maximum costs weekly.

Current costs

Minimum - £255.96

Maximum - £16,820

Average - £1179.36

What is the weekly cost, inclusive of support hours and accommodation, for placing an adult (18 to 24 years old) within semi-supported accommodation? Please provide minimum, average, and maximum costs weekly.

The Trust is responsible for young people up to the age of 18. Placements for 18–24-year-olds are the responsibility of Birmingham City Council, and they would need to supply this information.

What is the average weekly amount of support hours required by 16 to 17-year-olds?

There is no requirement in terms of the number of support hours. Depending on the category of service provision:

The support hours are agreed based on the needs of the young person.

Staff are available 24 hours providing support where necessary and as required with unlimited hours of support.

What is the average weekly cost of support hours for care leavers?

As per the response to the question above, support hours are based on need and / or included in the package of service provision. The cost therefore is not something that we can provide.

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How many supported living providers are currently contracted to provide services for care leavers?

There are 130 Supported Accommodation providers on the West Midlands Supported Accommodation framework.

Can you provide a list of the current supported living providers?

A1 Support Ltd
Above & Beyond
Accord Housing Association
Acre Wood Housing Ltd
Akela Future Living Ltd
Angel Housing Ltd
Aspire Supported Accommodation Ltd
Bournville Village Trust
Bright Living Homes
Brightsky Youth Services Limited
Calvic Enterprises Ltd
Care & Management Services
Care First Services Limited
Care for Me Housing and Support LLP
Caring Thoughts for Future Steps
Clinevo Holdings Ltd
Comforting Hearts
CSM Independence
Custodian Group
Eclipse Properties Limited
Empire Coaching
For Everybody Ltd
Genesis CDE Ltd
Guardian Homes
Hays Housing
Healthcare 1st Choice
Healthcare Solutions365 Ltd
Heaven Support Services Ltd
Hebol Ltd
Horizon Care and Education - Fairview
Horizon Care Supported Accommodation

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Hyland Support Services Ltd
Ignite Health & Home Care Services
Jordan Xavier Ltd
Key2 Futures Ltd
Keystones Supported Living
Kokio Healthcare
Life Skills Supported Accommodation
M.E.L Supported Living Ltd
Masiah House
Midland Heart
Miracle Social Care Ltd

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Miracle Social Homes
Moore's Futures Ltd (Spot Purchase)
Omni Cura Supported Accommodation Services Ltd
P&N Healthcare Services
PSM Healthcare
Rise Up Projects
Riverside
Rock Housing and Support Services Ltd
RTSR
Safe Hands Supported Living
Sahara Housing CIC
Serenity care and support
Serenity Homes
Sole Crown Supported Housing Ltd
Spring Housing
St Basils
Start Again Project
Support & New Beginnings Ltd
Teenage 2 Adult care LTD
The Riverside Group Ltd
Thomas Care Recruitment Agency Ltd
Throughcare Housing and Support
True Supported Living LTD
TS Healthcare Ltd
Vested Housing
Warwickshire Living Ltd
Yellow Door Services
YMCA Black Country Group

What quality assurance measures are in place to monitor and evaluate supported living providers?

Supported Accommodation (which is what I think they are referring to) is now regulated by Ofsted so before using a provider we would check that they have had their registration approved.

We complete a due diligence form before placing with a new provider, this is a comprehensive check of documents, staffing, health and safety and training. There are Supported Accommodation regulations so are expectations align with these .

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How often are these providers inspected and assessed?

If the provider is Ofsted registered it would be Ofsted who inspect and assess them, we, as a LA would monitor the support being provided to the young people who are under our care but as you can imagine there are over 2,000 BCT children in placements so we rely heavily on our social workers to inform us of any concerns.

If we do have a concern we aim to go and visit the property and work with the provider to address the issues if possible.

Tendering and Contracts:

What tender frameworks are used for commissioning supported living services for care leavers?

West Midlands Supported Accommodation Framework

When is the next tender for supported living services expected to open?

Please contact Staffordshire County council, they will be in a better position to answer this question as they are the lead council for this framework .

How can interested parties access and participate in the tendering process?

West Midlands Supported Accommodation framework – a new contract was awarded in February 2022 which is for 4 years with option to extend for 2 years. This is a call-off contract with spend up to £4.6 million. The Contract for 4 years is up to 31st Jan 2026 but will reopen to new providers at some point. You would need to register on Proactis - please contact Staffordshire Procurement Team for more information as they lead on this.

Commissioning Process:

Whom should I approach within your Birmingham Children's Trust to discuss commissioning/service provision/rates and referrals?

For commissioning related queries contact:

childrenscommissioning@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

For more specific placement related queries contact:

placementscommissioning@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

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Can you explain your commissioning process for private supported accommodation providers?

Supported Accommodation providers are commissioned through the West Midlands Supported Accommodation framework which is led by Staffordshire.

There are 5 categories of services which are as follows:

1. Single accommodation + face to face support hours as required
2. Shared accommodation (2-4 young people) + face to face support hours as required
3. Outreach support not linked to specific accommodation
4. Shared accommodation (2+ young people) with staff on site from 10.00pm to 7.00am each night. (Sleep In)
5. Shared accommodation (2+ young people) with staff on site 24/7 (Sleep In - Waking Night is optional)

Do you spot purchase, have framework contracts/agreements, or block contracts?

We have a framework contract for Supported Accommodation. We do use spot purchasing but this is by exception and on the occasional basis only. We do not have any block contracts.

Please quote the reference number **67566413** 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:

Birmingham Children's Trust
PO Box 17342
Birmingham
B2 2DW

Email: TrustInformation@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Tel: 0121 303 5161 (select Option 2)
Web: www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

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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