



Our ref: 68309662  
10 October 2024



## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**



Thank you for the Freedom of Information request you have made. 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**

- 1. (a) The number of children's residential homes in the council. (b) Distribution of these homes per each ward.**
- 2. How many of those are owned by the council.**
- 3. The number of children and young people under the care of the local authority (LAC).**
- 4. How many of them are in children's residential home.**
- 5. How many of these are in placements within the county.**
- 6. How many of these young people are placed outside the county.**
- 7. What are the lowest and highest cost for these placements (a) within and (b) outside the county.**
- 8. What are the steps taken by the council to increase placement sufficiency.**
- 9. How much has been spent by the council for the last two year for out of the county placements?**
- 10. What percentage is (9 above) represent the total spending within children's services.**
- 11. On average, how long it takes to source a suitable placement for a young person with (a) low needs (b) moderate needs and (c) complex needs?**

### **Response**

- 1. (a) The number of children's residential homes in the council. (b) Distribution of these homes per each ward.**

a) The number of children's residential homes in Birmingham currently is 83.

Ward	Number of Children's Residential homes
Acocks Green	7
Aston	≤5
Balsall Heath West	≤5
Billesley	≤5
Bournbrook & Selly Park	≤5
Brandwood & Kings Heath	≤5
Bromford & Hodge Hill	≤5
Erdington	≤5
Frankley Great Park	≤5
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross.	≤5
Gravelly Hill	6
Hall Green North	≤5
Hall Green South	≤5
Handsworth	≤5
Handsworth Wood	7
Harborne	≤5
Heartlands	≤5
Highters Heath	≤5
Kings Norton North	≤5
King standing	≤5
Ladywood	≤5
Longbridge & West Heath.	≤5
Moseley	≤5
North Edgbaston	≤5
Oscott	≤5
Perry Barr	≤5
Quinton	≤5
Sheldon	≤5

Stirchley	≤5
Stockland Green	≤5
Sutton Roughley	≤5
Sutton Vesey	≤5
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	≤5
Sutton Wylde Green	≤5
Ward End	≤5
Yardley East	≤5
Yardley West & Stechford	≤5
Grand Total	83

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.

On balance, we consider the detriment to privacy through disclosure outweighs the interest that would be served. Accordingly, disclosure would be in contravention of the First Data Protection Principle. It is therefore appropriate for us to withhold this information under section 40(2) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) by virtue of section 40(3A)(a). Therefore we are exempting this part of the request under section 40(2) of the Act by virtue of section 40(3A)(a) of the same Act.

## **2. How many of those are owned by the council.**

There are currently 5 children's residential homes in Birmingham that are owned by Birmingham Children's Trust.

**3. The number of children and young people under the care of the local authority (LAC).**

2286

**4. How many of them are in children's residential home.**

218

**5. How many of these are in placements within the county.**

96

**6. How many of these young people are placed outside the county.**

122

**7. What are the lowest and highest cost for these placements (a) within and (b) outside the county.**

	<b>Lowest Cost</b>	<b>Highest Cost</b>
	£	£
<b>Within County</b>	3,417.44	541,010.40
<b>Out of County</b>	2,563.08	926,661.40

\*Data from IMT for current Open CIC Cohort as of 25-09-2024.

\*Based on Current known Commitments as at Month 5 (01.09.2024) Data for 2024/25 financial year.

**8. What are the steps taken by the council to increase placement sufficiency.**

BCT as Corporate Parents are bound by the Sufficiency Duty within the Children Act to consistently work towards ensuring there are sufficient variety and number of homes for children in our care.

We have a sufficiency strategy that sets out our strategic intentions and this is a public document available to all.

There is a sufficiency plan, actions and activity arising from this strategy and this is reviewed by the core stakeholders on a fortnightly basis.

Examples of the steps taken to increase placement sufficiency include:

- Undertaking QA visits and assurance work with providers proactively and reactively to assure of quality and work with providers on their compliance with regs if any concerns arise, to ensure their ongoing registration and availability
- Market engagement with the wider market through comms of our intentions / needs to the market
- Market engagement through visits / response / comms to mailshots and approaches from potential new entrants to the market
- Pre – compliance check work with providers to ensure availability of emergency / crisis options

## **9. How much has been spent by the council for the last two year for out of the county placements?**

This information is not held by the Trust in a readily accessible format as we are not able to split the financial data between in and out county. I can confirm that the Trust has kept a manual record (i.e. outside of case management systems).

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 218 records to review and we estimate that each one would take 10 minutes to review which would take 36 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.

**10. What percentage is (9 above) represent the total spending within children's services.**

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

**11. On average, how long it takes to source a suitable placement for a young person with (a) low needs (b) moderate needs and (c) complex needs?**

There is not a straightforward formula by which to answer this question as the length of time required to identify a suitable placement is dependent on a large number of factors including:

- The quality of the referral and the need to ensure it is the best quality before the referral goes out to the market, so as to describe the child and their needs accurately
- The level of demand on that day – i.e. how many other children are competing for the same placement type in the same location
- The level of vacancy in the market for that placement type on that day
- Other factors such as location in relation to school or family time that might rule out a placement that meets needs that we have found quickly, but doesn't meet criteria for school travel distance or family time
- Naturally, children with needs of any nature that are greater or more complex may require a longer time period to find the right placement in the right location.

Please quote the reference number **68309662** 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](mailto:infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk)

If you are still dissatisfied with the 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

I will now close your request as of this date.

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**Disclosure Officer**

**Re Use of Public Sector Information**

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