



Our ref: 80555936
27 January 2026



Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear ###,

Thank you for the Freedom of Information Request you have made. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by the Trust and our response is detailed below.

1) Please provide the name(s), email(s), and telephone number(s) of the individual(s) responsible for Short Breaks provision

Please note, we are withholding the identities of other members of the team as their information constitutes personal data under the Data Protection Act 2018. As this is personal data, disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) 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, however, the appropriate balance lies in restricting disclosure of personal information of staff to instances where they are:

- Directors and senior managers, whose names are already in the public domain through their responsibilities
- Managers or officers who are responsible for major policies and/or budgets
- Officers who represent the authority to the outside world as a spokesperson or at meetings with other bodies (this implies that the employee has some responsibility for explaining the policies or actions of the authority).

It is therefore appropriate for us to withhold this information under section 40(2) of the Act by virtue of section 40(3A)(a). Therefore we are exempting

this part of the request under section 40(2) of Act by virtue of section 40(3A)(a) of the same Act.

If you require any clarification or further information in relation to this response, please contact

StrategicCommissioning@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

2) Do you provide grants or direct payments for Short Breaks provision? If so, how are they paid, e.g. bank accounts, prepaid cards, eWallets? If not, are there any plans to provide grants or direct payments in the future?

The Trust does not disburse grants or use direct payments for these purposes. All short breaks are delivered by a broad range of providers who are contracted to deliver those community-based services on behalf of the Trust. The Trust has recently recommissioned these services, so there are no plans to change this model at this time.

3) Do you use on-line digital solutions to assist with the application, awarding and management of Short Breaks? If so, who is the provider and when is the contract due to expire? If not, are you considering using digital solutions to manage and oversee your Short Breaks?

- Universal short breaks – inclusive services across the city – are funded and managed by Birmingham City council and the Trust would only signpost to these services
- Targeted short breaks – those for disabled children with an EHCP or other formal evidence of need – are funded by the Trust but managed on our behalf by a community-led partner from the voluntary sector
- Specialist short breaks – those only available following a formal Social Work assessment process – are arranged and allocated directly from the Trust to our commissioned specialist providers

The Trust has recently recommissioned services for targeted short breaks and specialist short breaks and there are no plans to introduce any changes such as digital systems to those services at this time.

4) Please provide the name(s), email(s), and telephone number(s) of the individual(s) responsible for personal budgets for education provision, e.g. SEND and EOTAS

Please see page 5 of the attached document titled 'Children and Families Directorate'.

5) Does the LA work contract with or recommend external direct payment support services and with which organisations? If yes, what services do they provide? When is the contract due to expire?

The Trust commissions three organisations to support families in their use of Direct Payments. They are referred to as Direct Payment Support Service (DPSS) providers:

- Ideal for All
- People Plus
- Penderels

They provide support and advice:

- For individuals and families to help them manage their Direct Payments
- With all aspects of the recruitment and selection of Personal Assistants
- With all aspects of payroll management, including tax and pensions
- On DBS checks for those who are employed

These providers are commissioned jointly with Birmingham City Council's Adult Social Care commissioning service and that arrangement is not due to expire until February 2029.

6) Who oversees the management of personal budgets and direct payments for children/families and what are their contact details? - i.e. name(s), email?

The Trust does not allocate Personal Budgets. Direct payments are allocated following Social Work assessment and formal panel process. This is managed by the Trust's Children with Disabilities Service.

As above, we are unable to disclose the direct contact details of individual officers, as this constitutes personal data and is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

7) How does the council pay direct payments, i.e. bank accounts, pre-paid cards or eWallets?

The Trust (on the Council's behalf) offers families the choice of a pre-paid card solution, or a managed account via one of the DPSS providers.

8) If the council uses pre-paid cards or eWallet solutions, who is the provider and when is the contract due to expire?

The provider is Allpay Limited. This provider is commissioned jointly with Birmingham City Council's Adult Social Care commissioning service and is not due to expire until September 2027.

9) Who is the Director of Children's Services at the council and please provide their title, name and email address?

Dr Sue Harrison – Executive Director of Children and Families
Sue.M.Harrison@birmingham.gov.uk

Holds the statutory position of Director of Children's Services and leads the team in Birmingham.

10) Who is the Assistant Director of Children's Services at the council and please provide their title, name and email address?

Please see the attached document titled 'Children and Families Directorate'.

Please quote the reference number **80555936** 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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