



Our ref: 82280093
16 April 2026



1) Of the Children and Young people reunified from Local Authority Care to their families how many were reunified following an extended period in Local Authority care? (Outside of the conclusion of initial court proceedings). Can you please provide the figures for 2021- 2025.

This information is not held by the Trust in a readily accessible format. 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 1260 records to review and we estimate that each one would take 10 minutes to review which would take 210 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.

2) Of the total children reunified how many have since returned to Local Authority care: Within 6 months, 12 months and 3 years.

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Within 6 Months | 17 | 19 | 23 | 13 | 33 |
| 12 Months | 35 | 24 | 24 | 27 | 42 |
| 3 Years | 62 | 36 | 34 | 41 | 42 |

3) Does the Local Authority currently have a reunification service? Please provide detail on model of delivery and team size.

Yes, the Trust has a team. The team is made up of one manager and 8 workers.

The model is direct interventions with families using a range of assessment and intervention tools to support young people to return home. Support can be extended to accessing benefits housing as well as parenting skills direct work with young people.

4) Is the reunification service 100% internally delivered or wholly or partially commissioned through VCSE partners? Please provide details.

Yes, the reunification service is internally delivered.

5) Does the Local Authority have plans to review/commission/establish a Reunification service? And if so, what would be the commissioning timescales? Please provide details.

No.

Please quote the reference number **82280093** 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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