

Freedom of information request NCC-029817-17

Thank you for your recent Freedom of information request for the following information:

1. How many looked after children are in the care of your local authority as of 1st April of the following years:

- a) 2016
- b) 2017
- c) And as of 20th February 2018

2. How many sibling groups were in the care of your local authority as of 1st April of the following years:

- a) 2016
- b) 2017
- c) And as of 20th February 2018

3. For the answer to Q2a-c, how many are sibling groups comprising:

4. a) 2 children
5. b) 3 children
6. c) 4 children
7. d) More than 4 children

3. How many sibling groups identified in the answers to Q2a-c were all placed together as of 1st April of the following years:

4. a) 2016
5. b) 2017
6. c) And as of 20th February 2018

4. For the answers to Q3a-c, how many are:

5. a) in unrelated foster care
6. b) In kinship foster care
7. c) In residential care
8. d) Placed for adoption?

5. How many children in your care, who are part of a sibling group, were not living with at least one of those siblings as of 1st April of the following years:

6. a) 2016
7. b) 2017
8. c) And as of 20th February 2018

6. For the answers to Q5a-c how many were:

7. a) in unrelated foster care
8. b) In kinship foster care
9. c) In residential care
10. d) Placed for adoption?

7. Please state the number of looked after children in your care being raised by a connected person as of 1st April of the following years:

8. a) 2016
9. b) 2017
10. c) As of 20th February 2018

8. For the answers to Q7a-c how many are fostered by an older sibling?

9. Please provide any current local policies and guidance on the placement of siblings within the looked after system.

Our response;

Nottinghamshire County Council "NCC" has considered your request, for the questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 all require NCC to be able to report sibling data. We don't record this information in a reportable format to enable us to answer the questions. Our average Looked after Children "LAC" numbers are around 800 at any one time. We've estimated at least 15 minutes per record to manually review each individual case file, identify all siblings and identify their LAC status and location. Based on this, we'd estimate around 200 hours for each of the 3 years in the request above. This would exceed the time threshold. This is defined in the Fees and Appropriate Limit Regulations and currently stands at 2.5 days or 18 hours. In this case we are denying the response under this FOIA exemption; 12. (1) Section 1 (1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Within the scope of the Act Section 16 (1) we are obliged to offer advice on how this request could be refined but given the scope of the number of records held NCC do not feel that any refined request would fall within the cost limit.

1. Nottinghamshire County Council can confirm the following:
 - a) 2016 – This information is published by the DfE
here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children>
 - b) 2017 – This information is published by the DfE
here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children>
 - c) And as of 20th February 2018 - We currently have 802 Looked after Children.
7. Nottinghamshire County Council have interpreted this as those children being fostered by a relative or friend (as per DfE Children Looked After definitions). Numbers of children in placements of this type on the requested dates was as follows:
 - a) 2016 - 46
 - b) 2017 - 43
 - c) As of 20 February 2018 – 58
9. The Looked after child and care leavers' strategy 2015-18 can be found on the NCC website here: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-childrens-trust/looked-after-children-and-care-leavers>

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

If you are unhappy with the way your request was dealt with and wish to make a complaint, please write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference above.

With kind regards

Lorraine Hayes
Complaints Information & Mediation Officer
Complaints & Information Team
Resources Department
Nottinghamshire County Council
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP
0115 97 72788