

Dear Requester

I refer to your recent Freedom of Information request. The response is as below.

1. When a Looked After Child (in the care of your local authority) moves placement:

**1a.** Are sturdy suitcases or luggage always offered to assist with transporting their belongings? Yes, we would always ensure a long term looked after child has what they need to transport their belongings

**1b.** If the answer to Question 1a is 'yes', who provides these items? (ie the local authority, the residential children's home, a fostering agency etc) This could be provided by the local authority/ foster carers/ residential.

The Nottinghamshire County Council works closely with the Nottingham-based charity My Bag, that provide a bag for children and young people who are entering the care of the local authority, which is theirs to keep and contains items such as a teddy, blanket, art equipment etc. We are also working with My Bag to provide "My Boxes" to looked after young people aged 16/17 if moving into semi-independent accommodation as well as care leavers aged 18 – 24 years old who are transitioning into independent accommodation. The My Boxes are packed full of useful household items, food, toiletries, treats etc. as an additional help when entering semi-independent/independent accommodation. Last Christmas we helped raise over £2000 for My Bag with donations from our employees in Nottinghamshire County Council and our partner organisations.

For further information about the My Bag charity please click: <https://mybagcharity.co.uk/>

2. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, how many complaints were made by Looked After Children against your local authority's children's services?

3. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020:

**3a.** How many complaints were made by Looked After Children against your local authority's children's services? 11 (by the Looked After Child or on their behalf). Please note that these are formal complaints received by the Complaints & Information Team - they do not include issues raised with Children's Services directly.

**3b.** How many complaints made by Looked After Children against your local authority's children's services were related to a child moving placement? 1

**3c.** If you hold data relating to the nature or issue of complaints made against your local authority's children's services, please share the breakdown of these based on the total number of children in Question 3b (i.e. unhappy with decision to move, lack of consultation with child when moving, items lost or broken during the move). Distress caused during removal of siblings from long-term home

If we have a complaint about how we could have managed a situation better then we will consider arranging a Learning Review so that we can get together with the people involved with the child and family to look at what happened and how we could do things differently. Learning Reviews help us to learn from things that have not gone well and are chaired by a Service Manager who is not responsible for the Service working with the child (we have asked for a learning review following a complaint from a FC about how children were moved from their care).

4. Please share any formal or informal guidance your local authority currently uses for staff/carers/Looked After Children that is focused on Looked After Children moving placement.

Please find attached documents relevant to this;

1. Impact summary on work undertaken (May 2020)
2. Briefing note for teams based on findings

Also:

[https://nottinghamshirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p\\_place\\_fost\\_care.html](https://nottinghamshirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_place_fost_care.html)  
[https://nottinghamshirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p\\_place\\_resi\\_care.html](https://nottinghamshirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_place_resi_care.html)

It is not all relevant but includes for example:

## **2.2 Identification and Approval of Placement**

Once a resource has been identified, the Placement Team will notify the social worker and other interested parties to advice of such.

Wherever possible, the child's social worker should visit potential placements and as required consult with other professionals, prior to a decision about the appropriateness of a placement being made

I hope this assists. Should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

Complaints, Information and Mediation Officer  
Nottinghamshire County Council

In addition to this and for future reference Nottingham County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)

<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you wish to raise any concerns about the way your request was dealt with, then please write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail [foi@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:foi@nottsc.gov.uk) quoting the reference number above.