

Dear Requester,

Further to your request for information under the freedom of information act, Please see below where the information is set out .

Q1. How many privately-run children's homes (residential) have you cancelled contracts with in the last three calendar years (2017, 2018, 2019 so far)?

None. This Council has direct contracts with just 2 private sector residential home providers and these contracts have remained in place during the period in question. Beyond this, the Council is part of a regional framework arrangement with a number of other local authorities through which placements in privately run children's homes are procured. This arrangement has also remained in place during the above period.

Q2. Please break this down by year and say the month you have gone up to for 2019. Please also say the cost of the contract and any costs incurred from terminating it.

N/A

Q3. How many times have you suspended children from going to a privately-run children's home (residential) due to an "inadequate" or "requires improvement" Ofsted reports in the last three calendar years (2017, 2018, 2019 so far)? Please break this down by year and say the month you have gone up to for 2019.

This Council does not routinely place children in its care at residential homes that are judged by Ofsted to be less than good or outstanding. If a residential home is inspected whilst a child in care is placed there, the Council will make a decision on a case-by-case basis, and always take into account specific findings within the Ofsted report including any specific recommendations that may be included within it about existing placements. In so doing, the Council will balance safeguarding concerns (which would necessitate a move) with the wish not to disturb a young person who is well settled in a long-established placement. In the context of this, the number of children-in-care that have been removed from a placement on account of an adverse Ofsted inspection outcome is relatively rare. Equally the information is not routinely retrievable in the way it is been requested and would require an onerous trawl through all individual case records to provide a 100% verified response, especially for 2017. However, colleagues collective knowledge indicates that 3 young people had placements ended in this way in 2018 and a further 3 in 2019 (to date).

Q4. How many children were sent to children's homes run by the following private providers between 31 March 2019 and 1 July 2019. Please detail the money spent per provider and the date the child was sent there

Of the providers listed in with request, this Council has placed children in care at homes run by the following 2 providers:

Horizon Care: Total spend = £85,235 on 2 children (1 placed in April and 1 in May) one of whose placements has since come to an end.

Priory Education: Total Spend = £70,039 on 2 children both placed during May

T-Junction Children's Services: Total spend = £13,500 on 1 child placed with the provider in April for a period of 4 weeks