



Coventry City Council

UNCLASSIFIED

Children's Social Care
Director: John Gregg

People Directorate
Civic Centre 1
Earl Street
Coventry
CV1 5RS

Telephone 024 7683 1196

Our reference: REQ00739
Date: 31st March 2016

Please contact:
Jackie Rutherford
Telephone: 024 76831196
E-mail: Jackie.rutherford@coventry.gov.uk

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for requesting information about Missing from Care. Your request has been considered under the above legislation. You have requested the following information:

The Care Planning and Care Leavers (Amendment) Regulations 2014 require a child's care plan to record whether a child is a victim, or there is reason to believe they may be a victim, of trafficking in human beings or is an unaccompanied asylum seeking child.

Statutory guidance on children who runaway or go missing from care (January 2014) requires data for children missing or away from placement without authorisation to be reported to the Department for Education by the responsible authority.

In this context please release the following information relating to looked after children in your authority for the period 1 September 2014 to 1 September 2015:

For all of the questions please provide a breakdown of these numbers by gender and nationality. If identification is a concern due to small numbers involved please give the total figures and specify whether the child is British / EU / non EU . For Q3 & Q4 please add the length of time the child was missing during each incident

1. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that have been:

a. Identified as having been trafficked – including, but not limited to those identified through the National Referral Mechanism.

During the period September 2014 to September 2015, no children/ young people were confirmed as having been trafficked.

b. Suspected of having been trafficked, if not included in a.

During the period September 2014 to September 2015, 9 children/ young people were suspected as having been trafficked.

c. Identified as an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) or a separated child

During the period September 2014 to September 2015, 23 children/ young people entered the care of the authority having been identified as being unaccompanied (UASC); this includes the 9 children/ young people identified in question [1.b].

2. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority:

a. identified or suspected as having been trafficked and that have gone missing or absent.

During the period September 2014 to September 2015, 5 children/ young people out of the 9 suspected as having been trafficked were recorded as having gone missing or absent.

b. identified as an UASC or separated child and that have gone missing or absent.

During the period September 2014 to September 2015, 6 children/ young people who entered the care of the authority having been identified as being unaccompanied (UASC) were recorded as having gone missing or absent; this includes the 5 children/ young people identified in question [2.a].

3. The total number of individual incidents (which could involve the same child on more than one occasion) of looked after children in the care of your authority

a. identified or suspected as having been trafficked and that have gone missing or absent.

During the period September 2014 to September 2015, there were 5 individual incidents of children/ young people who were suspected as having been trafficked going missing or absent.

b. identified as an UASC or separated child and that have gone missing or absent.

During the period September 2014 to September 2015, there were 7 individual incidents of children/ young people who entered the care of the authority having been identified as being unaccompanied (UASC) going missing or absent; this includes the 5 incidents noted in question [3.a].

4. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that are still missing or absent (including those that subsequently turned 18 without being found) that were identified or suspected as having been trafficked or identified as an UASC or separated child.

During the period September 2014 to September 2015, 5 of the 23 children/ young people who entered the care of the authority having been identified as being unaccompanied (UASC), all of which were also suspected as having been trafficked were never found. None of these cases remain open to Social Care.

All of the above 23 children/ young people were from non-EU countries (Afghanistan/ Albania Eritrea/ Sudan/ Syria/ Vietnam). 5 of the children went missing and were never found and the other child went missing for less than 48 hours combined over two incidents. 1 child presented as being 12 years old, whilst all others presented as being 15 years old or older.

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If you are unhappy with the outcome or handling of your request you should write to us within 40 working days of the date of this letter at:

Information Governance Team
Council House,
21a Lower Ground Floor
Earl Street, Coventry.
CV1 5RR
infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you have done this and are still dissatisfied, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Jackie Rutherford
Business Manager