



Coventry City Council

Information Governance Team

Postal Address:

Coventry City Council

PO Box 7097

Coventry

CV6 9SL

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI668328907

Thank you for your request for information relating to Children in care and foster carers.

You have requested the following information:

- 1. As a month by month breakdown, how many children and young people have entered the care system in your area over the past five years?**
- 2. As a month by month breakdown, how many children/young people who are living with a disability have entered the care system in your area in the following years?**

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disability as constituting a 'physical or mental impairment' the impairment 'has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

2024

2023

2022

2021

2020

3. How many foster carers do you currently have in your area?

4. How many foster carers do you currently have in your area who are able to provide the types of foster care listed below. Please enter the total number of carers available, including those currently fostering children and those not.

Type of foster care Number of carers in your area

Short term

Long term

Respite

Emergency

Remand

Fostering siblings

Bridge to foster

Parent and child

Fostering a baby

Fostering those with a disability

Fostering teenagers

Fostering unaccompanied children e.g. asylum seekers

Staying put

Therapeutic

Other

Q.5. Has your council seen an increase in the demand for foster carers for children/young people who are living with a disability in the last 12 months? Y/N

Please see the attached document outlining our responses to your questions.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

1. As a month by month breakdown, how many children and young people have entered the care system in your area over the past five years?

The number of children (under 18 years of age at point of entering care) entering the care system month by month from January 2020 to November 2024 were as follows (see Table 1).

Note that a count is made for each discrete period of care. i.e. a child having two separate care periods in a calendar year is counted twice.

Table 1: Monthly distribution of children entering care under the responsibility of Coventry City Council.

Year	Quarter	Month	Number of children entering care
2020	Qtr1	Jan	22
		Feb	22
		Mar	32
	Qtr2	Apr	12
		May	22
		Jun	21
	Qtr3	Jul	35
		Aug	39
		Sep	43
	Qtr4	Oct	30
		Nov	12
		Dec	38
2021	Qtr1	Jan	12
		Feb	13
		Mar	32
	Qtr2	Apr	15
		May	11
		Jun	15
	Qtr3	Jul	32
		Aug	27

	Qtr4	Sep	27
		Oct	32
		Nov	22
		Dec	34
2022	Qtr1	Jan	14
		Feb	20
		Mar	19
	Qtr2	Apr	19
		May	23
		Jun	34
	Qtr3	Jul	36
		Aug	21
		Sep	22
	Qtr4	Oct	26
		Nov	15
		Dec	28
2023	Qtr1	Jan	16
		Feb	13
		Mar	28
	Qtr2	Apr	17
		May	16
		Jun	19
	Qtr3	Jul	32
		Aug	28
		Sep	32
	Qtr4	Oct	24
		Nov	18
		Dec	24
2024	Qtr1	Jan	14
		Feb	18

		Mar	19
	Qtr2	Apr	22
		May	25
		Jun	33
	Qtr3	Jul	30
		Aug	29
		Sep	26
	Qtr4	Oct	24
		Nov	28

2. As a month by month breakdown, how many children/young people who are living with a disability have entered the care system in your area in the following years?

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disability as constituting a 'physical or mental impairment' the impairment 'has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

2024

2023

2022

2021

2020

Due to the low numbers of children, we are unable to provide the data of children entering care with disability on a month-by-month basis. This has been done as the Council considers that this information meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 ("DPA") as:

(2) "personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c))"

(3) "Identifiable living individual" means a living individual who can be identified, directly or

indirectly, in particular by reference to –

(a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or

(b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual."

The Council thus considers that the requested information is caught by the exemption to disclosure contained in Section 40 (2) of the FOI Act and the related first condition of Section 40 (3).

To assist, we can provide annual figures (see Table 2).

For 2024, the time span represents January to November inclusive.

Table 2 – Annual figures for children with a disability entering care

Year	Number of children with disability entering care
2020	18
2021	18
2022	15
2023	15
2024	16

3. How many foster carers do you currently have in your area?

As at 31 March 2024 there were 288 approved fostering households and 466 foster carers.

4. How many foster carers do you currently have in your area who are able to provide the types of foster care listed below. Please enter the total number of carers available, including those currently fostering children and those not.

We hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Information is recorded for annual reporting to Ofsted at a summarised level for a sub-set of the categories requested (Table 3). For those categories where figures are not provided, the information is held at household level, and collating this information would require examination of individual household records exceeding 18 hours.

This part of your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act. However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we have provided information that we can, in Table 3.

Table 3 – Mapping of foster carer households to foster carer categories.

Requestor category	Ofsted category description	Household primary designation	Household secondary designation	Count of households
Short term	Not permanent	139	1	140
Long term	Permanent	46	21	67
Respite	Respite	0	0	0
Emergency	Emergency	0	1	1
Remand	Remand	0	0	0
Fostering siblings				
Bridge to foster	Foster to adopt	0	0	0
Parent and child	Parent and child	0	0	0
Fostering a baby				
Fostering those with a disability				
Fostering teenagers				
Fostering unaccompanied children e.g. asylum seekers				
Staying put				
Therapeutic				
-	Short Breaks	9	6	15
-	Family and friends	94	0	94
	Total	288	29	317

Q.5. Has your council seen an increase in the demand for foster carers for children/young people who are living with a disability in the last 12 months?

Yes.