



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: FOI702479706

Thank you for your request for information relating to Children's residential costs.

You have requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request detailed information regarding your local authority's expenditure and operational details on internal children's residential services. Specifically, I would appreciate the following:

Financial Details:

A detailed breakdown of the total annual spend on internal children's residential services, including:

Staffing costs (e.g., salaries, overtime, agency staffing)

Premises costs (e.g., rent, maintenance, utilities)

Direct operational costs (e.g., food, transport, clothing, activities)

Management or administration overheads

Training and professional development costs

Total spend on internal childrens homes in 2024/25:

	24/25 (£)
Staff costs	4,509,214
Overheads	808,929
Direct operational costs	322,058
Premises costs	236,141
Training and professional development costs	31,246
	5,907,589

Historical spending patterns, specifically:

Annual spend over the past five years

Budgeted versus actual annual spend over the same period

Forecasted budget for the upcoming financial year

	Actual					Forecast
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Internal residential spend	4,092,870	4,258,154	4,620,983	4,850,709	5,907,589	
Internal residential budgets	3,594,692	3,657,830	3,877,414	4,465,092	6,472,369	7,137,011
Variance	498,178	600,324	743,569	385,617	- 564,780	

Comparative costs:

Average cost per residential placement or per child, broken down by week/month/year

Comparative costs of internal residential care versus externally commissioned/private residential placements

	Annual unit cost				
	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Internal Residential	£249,581	£199,901	£224,656	£219,985	£259,050
External Residential	£189,409	£199,895	£225,758	£249,366	£369,652

Operational Information:

Information on capacity and utilisation, including:

- Number of internal residential homes currently operated**

We currently have 7 operational children's homes.

- Bed capacity per home**

Each home can care for up to 4 children.

- Occupancy and Vacancy Rates**

Excluding our 2 short stay homes- average annual occupancy is 82%. This fluctuates according to the needs of children within the homes and as new homes open/ children move, phased moves for children.

Staffing details, specifically:

- **Staff-to-child ratio within residential settings**

Staffing is based on occupancy and the individual needs of children within each home.

- Use and associated costs of agency or temporary staffing –

Agency staff spend - internal childrens homes					
	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Agency	£48,280	£71,604	£51,620	£192,617	£51,948

- **Staff turnover rates and associated recruitment costs**

Staff turnover rate for year ending 31 March 2025

9.92%

Associated recruitment costs

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. Financial information on associated recruitment costs is not held.

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

Information Governance