



Information Governance Team

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15 August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI728236980

Thank you for your request for information relating to Children in care - Supported Accommodation and Support Services .

You have requested the following information:

I am writing to request detailed information regarding your local authority's commissioning and delivery of supported accommodation and support services for children in care and care leavers, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).

Please respond to the following questions in full. Where possible, provide data in Excel or CSV format.

1.1. List all providers currently delivering supported accommodation and/or support services for:

- **Children in care aged 16–17**
- **Care leavers aged 18+**
- **UASC (if applicable)**

The information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Council website, please use the following link:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/1362/contracts_register

1.2. For each provider, specify:

- **Type of provision (e.g. 24/7 staffed, floating support, outreach, safety pods)**
- **Number of units or placements available**

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.

This is not held in a reportable format. An officer would be required to manually locate and analyse individual records held under each provider in order to identify and collate the information requested above, this would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). Therefore, this part of your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

- **Ofsted registration status (registered, pending, exempt)**

We only deal with Ofsted registered supported accommodation.

- **Number of young people currently placed by provider**

We have withheld this information as it may identify individuals placed. 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).

2. Costs and Funding

2.1. Provide the average weekly cost per young person for each type of supported accommodation and support service, broken down as follows:

- **Accommodation cost**
- **Support cost**
- **Additional costs (e.g. contingency placements, interpreters, transport)**

With regards to the average weekly costs broken down into each type of supported accommodation and support service as requested above, we confirm 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.

An officer would be required to manually locate and analyse individual records relating to each child's individual needs in order to identify and collate the information requested above, this would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). Therefore, this part of your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

However, in order to fulfil our obligation as per Section 16 of the FOIA to advise and assist you, we can confirm that the average weekly cost of supported accommodation for 2024/25 was £729.

2.2. Confirm whether young people are expected to contribute to accommodation costs (e.g. via Universal Credit housing element). If so:

- **How is this managed and monitored?**
- **What is the average amount recovered per young person per week?**

The provider must support a Young Person to make a timely application for all benefits that they are eligible for once they reach the age of 18. The provider must recharge/credit the Council for all young people who are entitled to claim the Housing element of Universal Credit.

3. Numbers of Young People

To clarify – We are looking for the 'last years' reporting figures please.

3.1. As of the most recent reporting period, how many young people are placed in:

- **Supported accommodation (16–17-year-olds)**
- **Transitional accommodation (18+ care leavers)**
- **Emergency or contingency placements (e.g. safety pods)**

Please refer to the below table. Figures have been provided as at March 2025:

Accommodation Type:	Count
Supported accommodation	78
Transitional accommodation (18+ care leavers)	29
Emergency or contingency placements (e.g. safety pods)	c*

* The count of children is between 1 and 5 inclusive so must be suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Please note the total count of children is between 1 and 5 inclusive. Therefore, we have suppressed the figure to protect confidentiality. Therefore, this information is exempt under section 40 (2) of the FOIA. This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the Data Protection Act.

3.2. Provide a breakdown by:

- **Provider**

See responses above to Question 1.

- **Placement type**

As at March 2025:

Placement Type:	Count
Regulated Supported Accommodation	78
Transitional accommodation (18+ care leavers)	29

- **Age group** - As at 31st March 2025:

Age group	Count
Aged 16	15
Aged 17	63
Aged 18+ (Transitional accommodation)	29

- **UASC vs non-UASC** - As at 31st March 2025:

UASC vs non-UASC	Count
Yes	45
No	33

4. Contractual Arrangements

4.1. Specify the commissioning route used for each provider:

- **Block contract**

Use of the Competitive Flexible Procedure. Under the new Procurement Act, councils can now use a single competitive flexible procedure to design bespoke multi stage tendering processes. This replaces the older multi-stage procedures and allows more tailored approaches depending on market conditions and service complexity. Tenders are published on Find a Tender service.

- **Spot purchase**

Spot purchasing is a one-off, unplanned procurement made outside of existing framework/block agreements. It is typically used when an individual's needs are too complex to be met by standard services. There is no suitable provider available within the existing preferred provider framework/block. A bespoke or highly tailored service is required, such as specialist care or accommodation. Under the Procurement Act 2023, effective from February 2025, local authorities must align all procurement activities, including spot purchases, with the National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS). This includes the following:

Delivering value for money and public benefit.

Supporting SMEs and VCSEs (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises).

Promoting environmental sustainability and community development.

Ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the procurement lifecycle.

- **Open or closed framework**

West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Framework can reopen at least twice within the term of the contract.

- **Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)**

We confirm we do not use this system for contracting arrangements for Supported Accommodation.

- **Other (please specify)**

Not applicable.

4.2. For each contract or framework, provide:

- **Provider name**

Barnardos
Elysian Field
Horizon

- **Contract start and end date**

04 November 2019 to 06 November 2026 inclusive of permitted extensions.

- **Extension options**

Please refer to our response above.

- **Total contract value or annual spend**

The total contract value is £23,583,000.

- **Whether the contract is exclusive or non-exclusive**

This contract is used in the first instance for the Council's requirements and where it cannot accommodate the Council will look to use the West Midlands supported accommodation framework or spot purchase.

4.3. Provide a copy of the service specification and/or contract summary for each current contract or framework.

In response to Question 4.3, we refer you to the attached document.

5. Procurement and Renewal

5.1. Confirm:

- **When your current contracts or frameworks are due for renewal or re-tender**

The current contract is due to expire in November 2026.

- **Whether you plan to re-procure these services in the next 12–24 months**

The recommissioning process has commenced, and the Council will be going out to tender for the new contract in December 2025/January 2026.

- **How providers can express interest in future opportunities (e.g. market engagement**

events, PIN notices)

A Preliminary market engagement notice was issued on the Find a Tender service platform for a market engagement event on the 15th July. In order to obtain a copy of the slides from this event, please contact PSS Joint Commissioning.

Email: PSSJointCommissioning@coventry.gov.uk

6. Quality Assurance and Young People's Feedback

6.1. Describe how you monitor the quality of supported accommodation and support services, including:

- KPIs used
- Frequency of audits or inspections
- Use of external regulators (e.g. Ofsted)

6.2. How are the views of young people captured and used to inform:

- Service delivery
- Contract management
- Provider performance reviews

In order to receive information requested for Questions 6.1 and 6.2, please contact our Children's Commissioning team and they will then provide you with a direct response. Please email: childrenscommissioning@coventry.gov.uk

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