

23 January 2020

Our ref: 5892432

Thank you for your request received on 13 December 2019, for the following information:

I would be most grateful if you could, under Freedom of information act provide the data below which is required for a research regarding Social Work with Romanian families in London and surrounding areas.

In the Financial year 2018-2019 In the Financial year 2019-up to date

**1. How many Care proceedings has your Local authority initiated in?
2. How many Care proceedings has your Local authority initiated in the financial year where the subject child was of Romanian nationality and /or Romanian ethnic background?**

3. Outcome of proceedings for children at point 2 above. Out of the number of children included at point 2 above, how many:

3.1 Returned home with parents at the end of the proceedings with no Order in place?

3.2 Returned to one or both of birth parents under a Supervision Order?

3.3 Placed with family/ friends in the UK under a Special Guardianship Order?

3.4 Placed with family / friends in the UK under a Child Arrangement Order?

3.5 Placed with family/ friends in Romania under a Special Guardianship Order and how are the families monitored and supported post-order?

Out of those at point 3.5, how many were placed with a SGO allowance as part of the support plan and how are the allowances reviewed.

3.6 Placed with family/ friends overseas (other than Romania) under a Special Guardianship Order and how are the families monitored and supported post-order? Please specify which country

Out of those at point 3.6, how many were placed with a SGO allowance as part of the support plan and how are allowances reviewed?

3.7 Placed with family/ friends in Romania under a Child Arrangement Order?

3.8 Placed with family/ friends overseas (other than Romania) under a Child Arrangement Order? Please specify which country

3.9 Of the Romanian children placed overseas, including in Romania, how many have direct or indirect contact agreed as part of the support plan and how is this managed?

3.10 Of the children included at point 2 above, how many were placed for adoption?

3.11 Of the children included at point 2 above, how many were placed in long term foster care?

3.12 Other outcomes, please specify

3.13 Of the total of care proceedings initiated in relation to children of Romanian background how many cases were transferred to a Romanian Court?

4. How many Care proceedings has your Local authority initiated in the financial year where the subject child was a national of Republic of Moldova?

5. Of those, how many were placed with family/ friends in the Republic of Moldova?

6. How many Parenting assessments of carers of Romanian ethnic background/ has your Local authority completed part of PLO and Care proceedings.

7. How many SGO assessments of carers of Romanian ethnic background/ has your Local authority completed part of PLO and/ or Care proceedings.

8. Of those at point 7, how many were completed in Romania?

9. Of those at point 7, how many were completed overseas (other than Romania)? Please specify which

countries

Qualitative Information:

10. What do you find to be main challenges in the assessment and direct work with Romanian speaking families?

11. What do you find to be the challenges in providing support to the Romanian speaking families?

12. Does your local authority's early help service offer parenting groups in Romanian?

13. What do you believe would be beneficial to your service to make the work with Romanian speaking families more effective?

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we consider that the following exemptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below

I would be most grateful if you could, under Freedom of information act provide the data below which is required for a research regarding Social Work with Romanian families in London and surrounding areas.

In the Financial year 2018-2019 In the Financial year 2019-up to date

1. How many Care proceedings has your Local authority initiated in?

In the Financial year 2018-2019	In the Financial year 2019-up to date
65	77

2. How many Care proceedings has your Local authority initiated in the financial year where the subject child was of Romanian nationality and /or Romanian ethnic background?

For Q2 to Q5 – we are unable to provide the information on how many Care proceedings our Local authority has initiated in the financial year where the subject child was of Romanian nationality and /or Romanian ethnic background as the numbers are very low.

*Please note that we omit the data where the values are 5 or less as this could reveal the identities of the children/member of staff. We consider that this information is exempt under section 40 of FOIA. Please see the refusal notice below.

Refusal Notice

Section 40 FOIA sets out an exemption from the right to know if the information requested is personal information protected by the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

The DPA which governs the processing of personal data and defines personal data “as any data which relate to a living individual who can be identified from those data, or from those data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller.”

Section 40 (2) FOIA exempts disclosure of information if such disclosure would contravene one of the data protection principles. This exemption is absolute and is not subject to the public interest test.

The first of the data protection principles requires that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully. It is our view that to disclose the withheld information would breach this principle, in particular, the requirement of fairness because the children have a reasonable expectation of privacy and do not expect that their personal information would be released in a response to a freedom of information request.

3. Outcome of proceedings for children at point 2 above. Out of the number of children included at point 2 above, how many:

3.1 Returned home with parents at the end of the proceedings with no Order in place?

- 3.2 Returned to one or both of birth parents under a Supervision Order?**
3.3 Placed with family/ friends in the UK under a Special Guardianship Order?
3.4 Placed with family / friends in the UK under a Child Arrangement Order?
3.5 Placed with family/ friends in Romania under a Special Guardianship Order and how are the families monitored and supported post-order?

Out of those at point 3.5, how many were placed with a SGO allowance as part of the support plan and how are the allowances reviewed.

3.6 Placed with family/ friends overseas (other than Romania) under a Special Guardianship Order and how are the families monitored and supported post-order? Please specify which country

Out of those at point 3.6, how many were placed with a SGO allowance as part of the support plan and how are allowances reviewed?

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3.11 Of the children included at point 2 above, how many were placed in long term foster care?

3.12 Other outcomes, please specify

3.13 Of the total of care proceedings initiated in relation to children of Romanian background how many cases were transferred to a Romanian Court?

4. How many Care proceedings has your Local authority initiated in the financial year where the subject child was a national of Republic of Moldova?

5. Of those, how many were placed with family/ friends in the Republic of Moldova?

Please see response to Q2 for all of the above questions.

6. How many Parenting assessments of carers of Romanian ethnic background/ has your Local authority completed part of PLO and Care proceedings.

7. How many SGO assessments of carers of Romanian ethnic background/ has your Local authority completed part of PLO and/ or Care proceedings.

8. Of those at point 7, how many were completed in Romania?

9. Of those at point 7, how many were completed overseas (other than Romania)? Please specify which countries

For Q6 - Q9:

London Borough of Barnet did not track these figures for the financial year 2018 – 2019, and we are unable to provide the information for the current financial year as the numbers are too low. Please note that we omit the data where the values are 5 or less as this could reveal the identities of the children/member of staff. We consider that this information is exempt under section 40 of FOIA. Please see the refusal notice below.

Qualitative Information:

10. What do you find to be main challenges in the assessment and direct work with Romanian speaking families?

Challenges can include language, cultural expectations in respect of education and parenting, mistrust of statutory organisations. These factors can also be present in other families of different nationalities.

11. What do you find to be the challenges in providing support to the Romanian speaking families?

Parents do not always accept support that is available and can be reluctant to work with agencies, this may be due to a lack of understanding of the concept of 'help and support'

12. Does your local authority's early help service offer parenting groups in Romanian?

We do not have a sufficient level of demand to deliver parenting programmes in Romanian at this time, we are able to work with families effectively using interpreters when necessary.

13. What do you believe would be beneficial to your service to make the work with Romanian speaking families more effective?

Community based support to assist and encourage access to ESOL courses and provision of information about services including UK expectations of parents to meet children's education, health and social and emotional development needs

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.