

5 July 2021
Our ref: 7385980

Thank you for your request received on 7 June 2021, for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

My questions are:

- 1. Does your authority have current digital inclusion policies relating to children in care and care-leavers? If so, please let me know where this information is published or send me a copy.**
- 2. Does your authority's local offer to care-leavers or pathway planning process contain specific reference to the risk of digital exclusion among care-experienced young people? If so, please let me know where this information is published or send me a copy.**
- 3. Has your authority been involved with initiatives to provide digital media (for example, laptops or similar digital technology, dongles or other internet alternative) to children in local authority care or care-leavers since March 2020, in order to address the impact of the pandemic on digital exclusion? If so, please let me know where this information is published or send me a copy.**

If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

If this request is unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me for further clarification.

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

- 1. Does your authority have current digital inclusion policies relating to children in care and care-leavers? If so, please let me know where this information is published or send me a copy.***

We do not have a digital inclusion policy but we do have a section in our PP+ policy in FAQ that refers to our approach to giving laptops. Please see attached.

2. Does your authority's local offer to care-leavers or pathway planning process contain specific reference to the risk of digital exclusion among care-experienced young people? If so, please let me know where this information is published or send me a copy.

Not explicitly. It would be discussed with the young person as part of pathway planning in relation to employment, education or training.

3. Has your authority been involved with initiatives to provide digital media (for example, laptops or similar digital technology, dongles or other internet alternative) to children in local authority care or care-leavers since March 2020, in order to address the impact of the pandemic on digital exclusion? If so, please let me know where this information is published or send me a copy.

Care leavers and looked-after young people aged 16-18 have been supported to access digital learning via devices/technology from a number of sources, including via the DfE and Barnet's Virtual School provisions. We have also been supported by Live Unlimited, a charity in Barnet who have provided devices/digital technology and access to the internet. Via these sources we have provided,

Circa 74 laptops; 25 Dongles; 3 routers and 2 tablets since lockdown measures were introduced.

Standard processes for looked after children is to ensure that all children in year 6 and above are provided with a laptop to support with their education where necessary. Laptops for younger children are not provided, as if required, it is expected their foster carers will be able to support with this, and assistance would be provided where necessary. This would be identified in the child's All About Me looked after review, or in the foster carer Annual Review.

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.