

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
28 September 2021
Our ref: 7616448

Thank you for your request received on 31 August 2021, for the following information:

Questions

- a) What number of children received early help services in the local authority in the periods:**
- i) April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016**
 - ii) April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017**
 - iii) April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018**
 - iv) April 1st 2018 to March 31st 2019**
 - v) April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020**
- b) For each of the periods in question (a), What number of children receiving early help were concurrently subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan?**
- c) Does your local authority have a process to refer children to early help services when their case is closed after a Child in Need assessment? (Yes or No)**
- d) An explanatory diagram for the following set of questions is included in an Appendix to this letter. If you cannot provide data for all periods, then please provide the data that is available. For each of the periods:**
- * April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016**
 - * April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017**
 - * April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018**
 - * April 1st 2018 to March 31st 2019**
 - * April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020**
- i) how many children were subject to a Child in Need assessment? ii) For how many children was the case closed following the assessment? iii) How many of the children whose case was closed after assessment were then referred on to early help services?**
- iv) How many of the children whose case was closed after assessment were subsequently re-referred for a Child in Need assessment within 12 months of their initial referral?**
- v) Of the group of children that had been referred on to early help services following the closure of their initial Child in Need Assessment, how many were re-referred for a Child in Need Assessment within 12 months?**

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

Response

I can confirm that the council holds the information you requested. However we are withholding the information because we consider that the following exemption exemptions and exceptions apply to it.

a) What number of children received early help services in the local authority in the periods: i) April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016

ii) April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017

iii) April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018

iv) April 1st 2018 to March 31st 2019

v) April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020

	Early Help Services
2015-16	1336
2016-17	1335
2017-18	1358
2018-19	2185
2019-20	2895

b) For each of the periods in question (a), What number of children receiving early help were concurrently subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan?

Refusal Notice

S12 - cost limit (exceeds appropriate limit)

We are unable to provide this information within the statutory 18-hour limit because we do not hold this data in a reportable format. To obtain this information we need to read each case file of children open to Early Help to ascertain if any children receiving early help were concurrently subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan

Say for e.g. there are approximately 2895 Early Help cases in the financial year 2019/20. It would take at least 05 minutes to review each case to find out the information requested

2895 cases x 05 minutes = 241 Hours.

We must therefore refuse your request, please see Refusal notice (Section 12) below.

Section 12 of FOIA states that the council does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit of £450 calculated at £25 per hour with a limit of 18 hours. The appropriate limit relates strictly to the process of determining whether the information is held; locating, retrieving and extracting the information, or a document containing it.

c) Does your local authority have a process to refer children to early help services when their case is closed after a Child in Need assessment? (Yes or No)

Yes

d) An explanatory diagram for the following set of questions is included in an Appendix to this letter. If you cannot provide data for all periods, then please provide the data that is available. For each of the periods:

*** April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016**

*** April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017**

*** April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018**

*** April 1st 2018 to March 31st 2019**

*** April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020**

i) how many children were subject to a Child in Need assessment?

	Number of Assessments
2015-16	4287
2016-17	4479
2017-18	4411
2018-19	3772
2019-20	3105

ii) For how many children was the case closed following the assessment?

	Closed
2015-16	3517
2016-17	3539
2017-18	3653
2018-19	3373
2019-20	2542

iii) How many of the children whose case was closed after assessment were then referred on to early help services?

	Referred to EH
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2015-16	397
2016-17	315
2017-18	398
2018-19	327
2019-20	236

iv) How many of the children whose case was closed after assessment were subsequently re-referred for a Child in Need assessment within 12 months of their initial referral?

	Re Referral in 12m
2015-16	508
2016-17	509
2017-18	389
2018-19	373
2019-20	222

v) Of the group of children that had been referred on to early help services following the closure of their initial Child in Need Assessment, how many were re-referred for a Child in Need Assessment within 12 months?

	Re Ref in 12m After Ref to EH
2015-16	11
2016-17	14
2017-18	24
2018-19	13
2019-20	7

Advice and Assistance

Unfortunately, we cannot see a way of reducing the request scope to bring it in within 18 hours appropriate limit.

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 Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, 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.