

London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
22 November 2021
Our ref: 7752463

Thank you for your request received on 25 October 2021, for the following information:

Dear Barnet London Borough,

I request that you provide following information in compliance with your duties under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The purpose of the request

I seek the information detailed below, in order to ascertain the level of training received by the those working for your authority who are responsible for undertaking the assessments of disabled children and their families for disability specific support services under the Children Act 1989 and the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

Statutory cost compliance limit note

If your authority considers that complying with this request in its entirety will exceed the statutory cost of compliance limit (specified in The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004) then I ask that you respond to the following requests in the order they appear until that limit is reached.

Requested Information

Please provide the details specified in (1) - (3) below concerning training courses provided by your authority (whether 'in-house' or externally funded) that specifically addressed the obligations of your authority under the Human Rights Act 1998. This request is limited to those courses that have been provided since April 2018 for your staff members (including agency staff) who were involved in the assessment of 'children in need' support services under section 17 Children Act 1989.

The details requested for courses described above are:

- 1. The name of the course or courses;**
- 2. Copies of the course programme or course programmes; and**
- 3. The number of staff who have attended the course, or if there was more than one course, the number of staff who have attended each of the courses.**

I understand that under the Act I am entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request.

If this request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all refusals by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

If you require any clarification, please contact me via email in accordance with your duty under section 16 to provide advice and assistance if you find any aspect of this Freedom of Information request problematic.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request by email. I look forward to receiving the information in the near future.

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 believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some/all of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

Please provide the details specified in (1) - (3) below concerning training courses provided by your authority (whether 'in-house' or externally funded) that specifically addressed the obligations of your authority under the Human Rights Act 1998. This request is limited to those courses that have been provided since April 2018 for your staff members (including agency staff) who were involved in the assessment of 'children in need' support services under section 17 Children Act 1989.

The details requested for courses described above are:

1. The name of the course or courses;

All of the training/workshops listed below included the topics or elements of the topics mentioned in the information request namely: Disabilities, child in need assessment and Human rights. This covers the period request 2018 – 2021

2. Copies of the course programme or course programmes; and

Please see refusal notice below.

3. The number of staff who have attended the course, or if there was more than one course, the number of staff who have attended each of the courses.

Attendance figures are listed below.

2018-2019	
Course Title	Number of attendees
Age Assessment: Law, Practice and How to Avoid Pitfalls	9
Early Help Assessment (CAF) Refresher	12
Early Help Assessment (Common Assessment Framework)	12
FGM Assessment Tool Training	7
Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)	25

Outcome Focused Assessment	5
ParentAssess	27
Safeguarding & Child Protection for Professionals with Designated Responsibilities	5
Safeguarding & Protecting Children: Legal Framework for Practice	27
Signs of Safety Express Staff Briefing	7
Signs of Safety Multi-Agency Briefing Workshop	11
Signs of Safety Practitioner (2 day course)	69
Working with Cultural & Economic Diversity and Safeguarding Children	13

2019-2020	
Course Title	No of attendees
Adolescent Mental Health Training	16
Age Assessment: Law, Practice and How to Avoid Pitfalls	31
Barnet Autism Training	31
Child Protection - Designated Safeguarding Lead	7
Early Help Assessment (Common Assessment Framework)	5
Family Mediation Training for Early Help	27
GCP2 Neglect Toolkit	10
Improving Family Engagement Using Solution Focused Ideas to Drive Family Change the Child Notice	32
Introduction to Safeguarding	3
Local Area SEND Inspection Briefing	9
ParentAssess	27
Safe Uncertainty - Dr Barry Mason	37
Safeguarding Children Assessment and Analysis Framework	27
Safeguarding: Legal Framework for Practice	16
Signs of Safety Multi-Agency Briefing Workshop	3
Signs of Safety Practitioner (2 day course)	26
The AMBIT Approach - Introduction and Application for Family Service Staff only	33
Together or apart assessment: analysis and balancing exercise regarding siblings	15
Whole Family Assessment - Early Help 0-19	39
Working with Cultural and Economic Diversity and Safeguarding Children	5
Working with families who are hard to help in child protection	2

2020-2021	
Course Title	Number of attendees

Child Protection Awareness for Carer Assessment and Carer support Teams (virtual learning)	10
Developing Professional Curiosity	30
DSL/Advanced Child Protection Training (Early Years setting only) (Part 1 & Part 2)	2
DSL/Advanced Child Protection Training for the Wider Workforce (2-day training)	2
DSL/Advanced Child Protection Training for the Wider Workforce (Part 1 & Part 2)	5
Early Help Assessment (Common Assessment Framework) [Part 1 & Part 2]	8
GCP2 Neglect Toolkit	5
Great Behaviour Breakdown - Residential Settings Only	12
Introduction to autism and positive behaviour management	31
Introduction to Safeguarding	10
ParentAssess	12
Safeguarding & Protecting Children: Introduction	5
Safeguarding Children Assessment and Analysis Framework- Fully booked	4
Safeguarding: Promoting the welfare of children (Legal Framework Level 3)	12
Signs of Safety Practitioner (2 day course)	14
Understanding Sensory integration therapy and its role within ASF and Occupational therapy	7
Virtual Working and Safeguarding	2

Refusal Notice

S43 - Commercial interests

This information is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) because, in our view, the disclosure of this information would, in our view, be prejudicial to the third party's interests if we were to provide course programmes for external courses delivered.

Where internal training courses are delivered to Council staff this is also under license or through our e-learning platform, which is proprietary software purchased specifically with the training content included and disclosure would, in our view, be prejudicial to the third party's interests if we were to provide course programmes for courses delivered.

We recognise the public interest in the disclosure of this information. These factors include the importance of transparency in the decision-making process relating to the spending of public money to ensure that procurement processes are conducted in an open and honest way. It is also important for the public to see taxpayers' money being used effectively and public authorities getting value for money.

However, the disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the company who contract their services to us if details of

their training material content is disclosed. Disclosure of this information is likely to have a negative impact on the contractor's future bargaining position, causing them financial disadvantage or loss. We believe that it is important to withhold this information to prevent prejudice to our contractor's future bargaining position when bidding for other course delivery projects. In addition, and as a consequence to the potential prejudice caused to our contractors, there is a strong risk that the Council's bargaining position for the future would be prejudiced because contractors and suppliers may become reluctant to enter into further free and frank negotiations for fear their commercially valuable training material content would be disclosed. For these reasons we consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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.

