

London Borough Of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue
22 March 2024
Our ref: 11785544

Thank you for your request received on 18 March 2024, for the following information:

1) How does the Children's Social Care Department equip its children's social workers to know when and how they should refer a concern arising from the physical characteristics of a child's home to their colleagues in the Housing Department for investigation/clarity? Examples of concerns, such as; insecure flooring, the size of a child's bedroom aged 10+ appearing less than 70.sq.ft, fire safety etc.

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) How does the Children's Social Care Department equip its children's social workers to know when and how they should refer a concern arising from the physical characteristics of a child's home to their colleagues in the Housing Department for investigation/clarity? Examples of concerns, such as; insecure flooring, the size of a child's bedroom aged 10+ appearing less than 70.sq.ft, fire safety etc.

We do not hold any specific guidance documents, tools, or policies explicitly focused on assessing the suitability of a child's bedroom size in the context of statutory social work within Children's Social Care. Our assessments are holistic and child-centred, considering the overall wellbeing and safety of the child, rather than specific measurements of bedroom size. Regarding the furnishing, equipment, and decoration of children's bedrooms, we do not have a distinct policy. Our practice emphasises meeting individual needs, interests, and choices of children in all aspects of care, guided by general principles of safety, welfare, and child-centred practice, rather than specific guidelines on bedroom decoration.

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.