



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI330799902

Thank you for your request for information relating to Missing children.

You have requested the following information:

1. Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021...

a. How many children (under 18 years old) were recorded as 'missing' in your local authority?

297.

b. How many Looked After Children were recorded as 'missing' in your local authority?

109.

2. Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, please breakdown...

a. How many children (under 18 years old) who were not Looked After were recorded as missing:

Once- 133

Twice- 31

Three times - 10

Four times - 9

Five times - 3

Between six and 10 times - 7

Between 11 and 20 times - 2
Between 21 and 50 times - 3
Between 51 and 100 times - 1
More than 100 times- 0

b. How many Looked After Children were recorded as missing:

Once - 33
Twice - 15
Three times - 11
Four times - 8
Five times - 2
Between six and 10 times - 14
Between 11 and 20 times - 14
Between 21 and 50 times - 9
Between 51 and 100 times - 3
More than 100 times - 0

3. Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021...

a. How many Return Interviews were offered to children (under 18 years old) who were not looked after who had been missing?

388 Interviews - 177 unique children

b. How many Return Interviews were accepted and received by children (under 18 years old) who were not looked after?

298 Interviews - 157 unique children

c. How many Return Interviews were offered to Looked After Children who had been missing?

746 Interviews - 101 unique children

d. How many Return Interviews were accepted and received by Looked After Children?

543 Interviews - 93 unique children

e. How many accepted Return Interviews were carried out by staff:

i. From the local authority (please name the local authority department)?

824 accepted Return Home Interviews were carried out by staff during the period specified.

ii. Commissioned services (please name the commissioned service)?

17 Return Home Interviews were completed by the National Youth Advisory Service (NYAS) during the period specified.

4. Who is the provider for your local authority's Return Interview service? (if there are several providers, please provide details of all and the nature of their role)

Coventry City Council: Return Home Interviews for Coventry resident children and young people are completed by Youth Workers, Child & Family Workers and Social Workers within the Child Exploitation Team and Youth Workers within the Early Help Service.

Children Looked After who are placed more than one hours drive outside of Coventry are referred to the National Youth Advisory Service to complete the Return Home Interview.

5. Please share details of any resources or support that your local authority provides directly to children who have been missing.

Return Home Interviews are offered to every child or young person within 72 hours of being found. Practitioners completing the Return Home Interviews are trained to engage with children and young people to assist in understanding the reasons for running away and what action can be taken to reduce or prevent future missing episodes. Following the completion of the Return Home Interview, the practitioner will identify support services based on the needs, risks or vulnerabilities of the child or young person in line with the Right Help Right Time Document. Coventry City Council commission Services from the NSPCC, Positive Choices and many third sector services that specialise in working with children and young people.

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance