



**Information Governance Team**

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01 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI359730326**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Children in Need and Early Help.

You have requested the following information:

**We are interested in exploring the pathways between early help and statutory children's social care services, and in particular pathways for children who have their cases closed after a Section 17 or 'Child in Need' assessment.**

**For children 'who have their case closed after assessment', we include children who are assessed as being 'not in need' AND children for whom 'no further action is taken'. These categories correspond to those used by the Department for Education's Children in need census (codes RC7 and RC8).**

**Guidance can be found here.**

**For the following questions, the term 'early help' refers to all non-statutory family and child support services operated by the local authority.**

**1. What number of children received early help services in the local authority in the periods:**

- a. April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016
- b. April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017
- c. April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018
- d. April 1st 2018 to March 31st 2019
- e. April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020

**2. For each of the periods in question 1, What number of children receiving early help were concurrently subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan?**

For Questions 1a to 2, please see the attached document.

**3. 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.

**4. 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**

**a. How many children were subject to a Child in Need assessment?**

**b. For how many children was the case closed following the assessment?**

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

**d. How many of the children whose case was closed after assessment were subsequently referred for a Child in Need assessment within 12 months of their initial referral?**

**e. 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?**

For Questions 4a to 4e, please refer to Question 1a.

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**

FOI359730326: Children in Need and Early Help

1. What number of children received early help
2. For each of the periods in question 1, What number of children receiving early help were

in the periods:	1. What number of children received early help services in the local authority	2. Child protection plan	2. Child In Need Plan
a. April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016	3785	182	358
b. April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017	3831	137	227
c. April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018	3879	82	185
d. April 1st 2018 to March 31st 2019	3051	80	116
e. April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020	2851	66	137

4. 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

- a. How many children were subject to a Child in
- b. For how many children was the case closed
- c. How many of the children whose case was closed after assessment were then referred on to early
- d. How many of the children whose case was closed after assessment were subsequently rereferred for a Child in Need assessment within 12 months of
- e. 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

For each of the periods:	a) Number of Children with Child in Need Assessment	b) Number of Children case closed after assessment	c) Number of Children referred to Early Help after case closed	d) Number of Children re-referred for CIN assessemnt within 12 months	e) Number of Children re-referred for CIN assessemnt within 12 months (initially referred to Early Help)
• April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016	5642	2033	230	475	71
• April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017	4189	1142	127	222	30
• April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018	4079	1667	126	326	27
• April 1st 2018 to March 31st 2019	4427	1967	107	362	26
• April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020	4380	1117	20	141	6