



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 15
Council House
Coventry
CV1 5RR

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

23 April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI599462503

Thank you for your request for information relating to HHSRS Assessments completed and Child's Bedroom Size.

You have requested the following information:

I am undertaking research into how Children's Social Care departments in England support and protect children living in properties where health hazards under the HHSRS may exist. With a particular focus on the actual size of a room used by a child as a bedroom and Crowding and Space Hazard under Housing Act 2004.

I respectfully ask that the response provided to Q3 is agreed and approved by both the relevant service areas to which it relates, Children's Services and Housing.

1. I would like to know if the Local Authority expects its social workers in Children's Social Care to consider the housing conditions and living environment as part of any assessment or plan for any child and family that is open to them?

Yes.

2. If concerns arise, do Social Workers from Children's Social Care work in partnership with Housing Providers and/or the Council Team who carry out Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) assessments

No.

3. I would like to know if a concern was brought to the social worker's attention that one of their allocated children had a bedroom potentially measuring less than 6.5m²/70 sq. ft and were aged over 10, whether a referral would be made for a Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) assessment to be undertaken in order to gain clarity.

This would determine whether any health hazards pursuant to the Housing Act 2004 are present falling under the psychological grouping of '(11) Crowding and space – covers hazards associated with lack of space within the dwelling for living, sleeping, and normal household life'.

No.

Section 3 of the 1989 Children Act explains parental responsibility, the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that a parent has in relation to the child. A person with parental responsibility can make decisions about the child's upbringing and is entitled to information about the child.

Chapter 1 of Working Together 2023 (starting at page 11) sets out working in partnership between parents and carers to get the best outcome for the child and the principles for working with parents and carers. There is an emphasis on social workers working with the child's whole family, this includes both the resident and non-resident parent.

Therefore, when a child is supported by a Local Authority under a CIN plan or a CP Plan, review meetings are held and documents from those meetings are provided to parents as standard, if the details of the parent are known and it has been assessed the child is not placed at risk of harm by sharing this information.

4a. In consideration of the above, I would like to know that at [Name of Local Authority], unless it was unsafe to do so and the details of the parent were known, you share information that is relevant to the child's welfare such as any hazards identified from a HHSRS assessment with all those holding parental responsibility for the child?

b. Please confirm that information from a HHSRS assessment that is relevant to the child's wellbeing would also be referenced by a social worker within planning documents and within review meetings, to which other persons with Parental Responsibility are involved and have access to.

For Questions 4a and 4b, we would share all relevant assessments.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

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