

FOI 2746

27th November 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Request:

How many children and adults (specify each separately) are registered in the Trust with a learning disability?

Response:

There are 507 children and 2116 adults registered in the Southern Health and Social care trust with a learning disability.

From the overall LD total noted above, how many children and adults (specify each separately) are also registered in the Trust with autism?

Response:

There are 263 children receiving Children with Disability Services with a diagnosis of Learning Disability and Autism.

For adults this data that is not recorded routinely by the Trust. Therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of service user records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

How many children and adults (specify each separately) are registered in the Trust with autism, who are not accounted for under the learning disability numbers?

Response:

There are 3493 children and 349 adults registered in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust with Autism.

How many children are entitled to respite care within the Trust?

Response:

All children with a disability known to Children's Disability Services are entitled to an assessment of need. Depending on the outcome of this assessment they may be allocated respite care.

Currently 35 children are in receipt of Residential Overnight short breaks and 20 children are in receipt of Overnight short breaks fostering

44 children in total are assessed as requiring overnight short breaks and on a waiting list.

How many children respite units are there in the Trust, where are they located and how many available beds are there in each unit for children?

Response:

2 Residential Short Breaks units located in Armagh (3 beds) and Banbridge (4 beds): 7 beds in total.

What services do each of these respite units provide for the children?

Response:

Overnight Short Breaks.

What is the current occupancy rates of each unit in the Trust?

Response:

Occupancy rates are dictated by the individual needs of the children and their safety and well-being. Both units are utilised as fully as it is safe to do so.

Willowgrove 89%

Oaklands 91.5%

What is the current waiting list? How long does it take to get a child a bed when the need is identified?

Response:

The current waiting list is 20 children (residential) and 24 children (short breaks fostering) and the average waiting time from identification of need is 10.5 months for both lists.



Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Does the Trust own the respite units or do they rent from the private sector? If rented, typically what are the length of leases and rent paid per annum?

Response:

SHSCT own the unit in Armagh and have a contract with Barnardos for the provision of Short Breaks in Banbridge.

How much does it cost the Trust per child for respite care on a daily basis assuming overnight care, and also the overall annual sum?

Response:

£1544.11 per night – Overall annual sum combined for both units is £1,689741.07 (residential based short Breaks)

How many staff are required per child? What band of staff is required to work within respite care and what is the typical annual salary for each of the bands noted?

Response:

Overnight Short Breaks Units are primarily staffed by Band 4/5 staff [average salary Band 4 = £26 371, average salary Band 5 =£31494 . 2 staff are usually required per child.

What services are provided to the families with children with learning disabilities?

Response:

34 separate family support services are funded by the Trust and provided to families including advocacy, summer schemes, independent living skills, day care, peer socialisation, short breaks fostering, residential respite, music therapy, self-directed support and specialist childminding and after school/pre-school schemes.

In addition, the Trust provides short breaks fostering services to 20 children.

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