

Freedom of Information Request

1. In your children's services department, what was the highest caseload of a frontline child protection social worker as of 1 April 2022?

Within Children's Services, our reporting arrangements for cases are based on the following:

A Child on the Child Protection Register = 1 case

A Looked after Child = 1 case

A Family subject to a Family Support Pathway = 1 case

Our Children's Services Social Workers will generally have a caseload of children who are subject to these various pathways. Therefore; in order to provide the level of detail requested a substantial manual exercise would be required, which the Trust considers would exceed 18 hours of staff time. Therefore the Trust is applying Section 12 (1) of the FOIA, which states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request, if the staff time taken to determine whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting the information, would exceed 18 hours (at a cost exceeding £450).

Please explain how the figures are calculated on occasions where there are multiple children in a family being supported. (I.e. Is there one case per child, or one case per family?)

See above, this is one case per child.

2. In your children's services department, what was the average caseload of a frontline child protection social worker as of 1 April 2022?

See above.

Please explain how the figures are calculated on occasions where there are multiple children in a family being supported. (I.e. Is there one case per child, or one case per family?)

See above.

3. In each of the following financial years, how many referrals did your children's services department receive – where a referral is defined as a request for services to be provided by children's social care?

i) 2017/18 = 4614

ii) 2018/19 = 4389

iii) 2019/20 = 4115

iv) 2020/21 = 3914

v) 2021/22 = 3716

4. What was the number of section 47 enquiries made by your children's services in the following financial years?

Section 47 is not relevant under NI statutory legislation, however section 47 enquiries are known as Child Protection referrals within NI and we can provide the following details

- i) 2017/18 - 360
- ii) 2018/19 - 156
- iii) 2019/20 - 171
- iv) 2020/21 - 211
- v) 2021/22 - 192

5a) How many children in total were on child protection plans within your children's services in the following financial years?

- i) 2017/18
- ii) 2018/19
- iii) 2019/20
- iv) 2020/21
- v) 2021/22

Total on Child Protection Register

| Year-End | No: of Children |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 31/03/2018 | 468 |
| 31/03/2019 | 468 |
| 31/03/2020 | 514 |
| 31/03/2021 | 482 |
| 31/03/2022 | 522 |

5b) How many children were newly added to child protection plans within your children's services in the following financial years?

- i) 2017/18**
- ii) 2018/19**
- iii) 2019/20**
- iv) 2020/21**
- v) 2021/22**

Total CPR Registrations per year

| Year | Registrations |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 2017-2018 | 445 |
| 2018-2019 | 446 |
| 2019-2020 | 479 |
| 2020-2021 | 490 |
| 2021-2022 | 490 |

5C) How many children exited child protection plans within your children's services in the following financial years?

- i) 2017/18**
- ii) 2018/19**
- iii) 2019/20**
- iv) 2020/21**
- v) 2021/22**

Total CPR Closures per year

| Year | Closures |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 2017-2018 | 431 |
| 2018-2019 | 446 |
| 2019-2020 | 434 |
| 2020-2021 | 518 |
| 2021-2022 | 461 |

6a) How many children in total were categorised as ‘in need’ within your children’s services in the following financial years?

- i) 2017/18 = 2412
- ii) 2018/19 = 2783
- iii) 2019/20 = 2330
- iv) 2020/21 = 2363
- v) 2021/22 = 2320

6b) How many children were newly assessed as ‘in need’ within your children’s services in the following financial years?

- i) 2017/18
- ii) 2018/19
- iii) 2019/20
- iv) 2020/21
- v) 2021/22

The Trust does not record this information.

6c) How many children were removed from the ‘in need’ category within your children’s services in the following financial years?

- i) 2017/18
- ii) 2018/19
- iii) 2019/20
- iv) 2020/21
- v) 2021/22

The Trust does not record this information.

7. In the following years, how much was spent by your children’s services on early help and prevention services?

- i) 2011/12
- ii) 2017/18
- iii) 2018/19
- iv) 2019/20
- v) 2020/21
- vi) 2021/22

No budget is defined for this area.

8. On 1 April in the following financial years, how many children designated as 'in need' or as a child protection case were either not yet allocated a social worker or had been given a holding allocation?

i) 2018 = 37

ii) 2019 = 19

iii) 2020 = 27

iv) 2021 = 43

v) 2022 = Data collation not ready as yet