

16 December 2022

Respite Care Centres

1. How many respite care centres does the Trust have which could provide care for children/young people?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) currently has one Respite Care Centre – Forest Lodge.

2. What amount of your respite care for children and young people are you outsourcing to be provided by a 3rd party between September 2021 and September 2022? This question also includes to circumstances where 3rd parties may provide the respite service at Trust facilities.

BHSCT has a number of 3rd party providers, both voluntary and contractual, who delivered respite to children / young people between September 2021 and September 2022.

These include:

- Lindsay House
- Solas
- Ardmonagh
- Cedar Foundation
- Kids Together
- Barnardo's Home Links
- Autism Initiatives
- Crossroads

Given the timeframe for the requested information, the Trust are unable to provide the number of hours that it provides for children and young people. To provide this information would require a manual review of individual case files, which would take more than 18 hours.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

3. How much did the outsourcing of this respite care cost the Trust between September 2021 and September 2022?

A total of £575,846.37 was spent on respite care for children and young people between September 2021 to September 2022.