

08 July 2024

## Children with and without Learning Disability

### Children with and without learning disability (BHSCT)

- Please provide the number of children in the BHSCT with learning disability that have been supported by a Social Worker in the last ten years?
- Please provide the number of these children, that have resided in a BHSCT funded residential care placement over the last ten years?
- Please provide the number of residential places for children that BHSCT have access to with a figure for the each of the last ten years?
- Please provide the annual costs for these placements for each of the last ten years?
- Please provide information on any development by BHSCT in the last ten years, which has increased the number of residential placements available to children with learning disabilities?

A note of context: Given the length of time that information was requested for (10 years), complexity and extent of the information requested, as well as the systems and data collection involved, this would have exceeded the 18 hours Fees Limit (Section 12) of the Freedom of Information act

In the spirit of openness and transparency, questions have been adapted by the Trust to the information we are able to provide at this time with the changes to the request highlighted in red.

**Please provide the number of children with learning disability who have been referred to the BHSCT in the last five years?**

There are 730 children referred to the Children with Disabilities Service with a referral reason of Learning Disability since 1 January 2019.

Breakdown of these referrals by year using their referral date is as follows:

2019: 145  
2020: 163  
2021: 144  
2022: 123  
2023: 106  
2024 (to date): 49

**Please provide the number of these children, that have resided in a BHSCT funded residential care placement over the last five years?**

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**Please provide the number of residential places for children with a learning disability that BHSCT have access to with a figure for the each of the last five years?**

2019/20: < 5 placements  
2020/21: < 5 placements  
2021/22: < 5 placements  
2022/23: < 5 placements  
2023/24): 5 placements

Use of < 5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under section 40(2) of the FOI Act - as this could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

**Please provide the annual costs for these placements that the Belfast Trust have access to for each of the last five years?**

2019/20: £1,205,550.45  
2020/21: £991,188.99  
2021/22: £1,617,395.96  
2022/23: £1,416,661.05  
2023/24: £2,610,396.60

**Please provide information on any development by BHSCT in the last five years, which has increased the number of residential placements available to children with learning disabilities?**

In the last five years, Belfast Trust has not been able to increase its estate provision, however it has changed its statement of purpose for some mainstream children's homes to accommodate children with a Learning Disability.